

• 研究方法(Research Method) •

面向空间导航能力的虚拟现实测验设计*

陈彦 田雪涛 骆方

(北京师范大学心理学部, 北京 100875)

摘要 空间导航是保证人们日常工作和生活有效运作的一项重要认知能力。随着虚拟现实技术(Virtual Reality, VR)的不断发展, 其与空间导航研究的适配性逐渐凸显。在当前技术条件下, 个体在VR中与在现实中的空间感知及行为表现尚存在一定差异, 研究人员应在新的技术环境下不断验证并更新其研究结果。基于VR设计空间导航测验, 首先要综合考虑设备的保真度以及受测者对设备的熟悉性与使用感受来选择合适的显示设备与移动技术; 其次应充分了解空间导航范式的设计逻辑, 通常包含“学习”和“测试”两个阶段, 并保证各阶段任务设计的科学性; 在设计场景与任务时, 应通过操控影响空间导航的环境因素来调节测验难度。鉴于虚拟现实测评工具的复杂性, 研究人员应从多个维度把控和评价测评工具的质量。

关键词 空间导航能力, 虚拟现实, 基于仿真的测评

分类号 B842

1 引言

近年来, 心理测量的视野逐渐从评估基础认知能力的实验室研究范式转向对个体在真实情境中完成特定活动所需的综合能力的测评。在空间相关能力中, 以往关注的主要是小尺度的空间能力(Spatial Ability), 即对本体外部的物体进行感知觉、想象和表象操作的能力, 如对图形进行心理旋转、想象一张纸片的折叠和展开等。然而这种“基础”的能力构念并不足以全面地描述个体在真实环境空间中辨别方向、学习和记忆空间布局、规划路径等认知过程, 这些过程调用的能力属于大尺度空间能力的范畴, 被称为空间导航能力(Spatial Navigation Ability) (Wolbers & Hegarty, 2010)。这项能力在人群中表现出显著的个体差异(张凤翔 等, 2023; Spiers et al., 2023; van der Ham et al., 2020), 并且容易受到老化的影响(Lester et al., 2017), 方向感和空间记忆衰退等症状是阿尔茨海默症(Alzheimer's disease, AD)等障碍早期

的关键认知标记(Coughlan et al., 2018)。因此, 无论是服务于特定岗位的人才选拔还是针对AD临床前期的监测和干预, 准确量化空间导航能力的个体差异是至关重要的前提。

早期的空间导航测验主要为自陈式问卷(例如Hegarty et al., 2002; Lawton, 1994), 受测者根据日常生活中的空间导航经历进行自我评估。问卷法易于施测且信效度尚可, 至今仍经常作为辅助测量手段, 但不可避免地存在缺乏客观性的问题。为了更直接地观察不同能力个体在具体任务上的表现, 有研究者在现实环境中开展空间导航能力测试, 例如住宅区(Ishikawa & Montello, 2006)、植物园(Muffato et al., 2016)、核设施(Stites et al., 2020)和校园(Pullano et al., 2024)等。这类研究需要在较大尺度的空间中开展, 允许受测者在场景中亲身行走, 能够保证较高的生态效度, 但也存在一定的局限性, 如耗时耗力, 研究结果难以重复, 难以控制噪音、天气、交通等因素的影响, 无法推广到其他场景(van der Ham et al., 2015)。

为了解决上述问题, 越来越多研究者尝试采用基于仿真的测评方法(Simulation-Based Assessment), 借助虚拟现实技术搭建二维或三维

收稿日期: 2025-03-03

* 北京市自然科学基金资助项目(L247011)。

通信作者: 骆方, E-mail: Luof@bnu.edu.cn

的场景来模拟真实世界中的特定环境,如小镇(Weisberg & Newcombe, 2016)、博物馆(Burles et al., 2020)、野外环境(Gagnon et al., 2018)等,或是特定范式所需的任务场景,如虚拟水迷宫(Thornberry et al., 2021)、Y 型迷宫(Rodgers et al., 2012)、双路径范式(Weisberg et al., 2014)、三角形完成范式(Adamo et al., 2012; Xie et al., 2017)等。相较于在真实环境中施测,虚拟现实测验不受场地和时间的限制,更加高效、安全、可控,并且能够对环境进行设计与操纵、提供自然的交互和即时的反馈,保证测验的标准化与生态化。此外,虚拟现实设备与活体影像学技术之间存在着良好的兼容性,能够结合脑电、眼动、磁共振成像等非侵入性技术收集多模态数据(Cogné et al., 2017; Migo et al., 2016)。近年来出现了越来越多的空间导航 VR 测评工具,被广泛地应用于轻度认知障碍(MCI)筛查、神经康复训练、军事人才选拔与职业培训、建筑空间安全优化设计等领域(Castegnaro et al., 2022; Coughlan et al., 2019; Da Costa et al., 2022; Diersch et al., 2019; Feng et al., 2022; Moussavi et al., 2022; Shi et al., 2021; Tarnanas et al., 2015; Wiener et al., 2020; Yang & Kalantari, 2024; Zen et al., 2013)。

本研究从测评的视角出发,首先明确使用 VR 作为测验载体的可行性,从多方面比较个体在 VR 与现实中的空间感知及行为差异。其次关注测验设计过程中需要考虑的一系列问题,包括:如何选择合适的显示设备与移动技术,如何设计科学、有效的测评范式,以及应该操控哪些影响空间导航任务难度的环境因素。最后,针对虚拟现实测评工具的质量评价问题展开探讨。

2 VR 与现实中的空间感知及行为差异

虚拟现实技术在过去 20 年间发展迅速,深刻地重塑了人类行为的研究方法(Brookes et al., 2020; Tarr & Warren, 2002),该技术通过呈现视觉图像以及非视觉的多通道刺激,提供实时交互的场景,为使用者带来沉浸式的体验(García-Betances et al., 2015)。利用 VR 来设计测验,首先需要明确基于 VR 得出的研究结论是否能够推广到现实世界中。目前而言,这是一个复杂而开放的问题,在空间导航领域尤其存在争议。一部分支持性的研究证据表明人们在 VR 中的空间导航

表现与在现实世界中基本相似(Coutrot et al., 2019; Cushman et al., 2008; Lloyd et al., 2009; Marín-Morales et al., 2019; Richardson et al., 1999),但也有一些研究揭示了 VR 中的感知与行为相较于现实世界存在差异,主要体现在以下几方面。

在感知觉层面,VR 与现实环境中可利用的感官信息存在一定差异,尤其是在桌面式 VR 中,受测者的身体相对静止,仅仅依靠视觉线索进行空间导航,缺乏前庭觉和动觉信息(Ladouce et al., 2017; Park et al., 2018),会削弱受测者在空间定向等方面的表现,并且视觉和前庭觉输入的冲突容易导致晕动症(Motion-sickness) (Diersch et al., 2019; Krohn et al., 2020)。此外,个体在 VR 中对距离、大小和速度等线索的感知也存在一定偏差,例如 Bhagavathula 等人(2018)比较了行人在 VR 和现实环境中的过马路行为,发现在过马路意图和感知交通风险方面是相似的,但在感知车辆速度方面存在显著差异;Kuliga 等人(2015)的研究发现,参与者在虚拟环境中存在大小与距离的感知偏差,表现为倾向于高估走廊的长度和狭窄程度。还有研究通过分析眼动数据发现视觉注意方面的差异,即个体在现实环境中的视觉信息加工更加高效,而在虚拟环境中的视觉信息搜索更加高效(Dong et al., 2022)。Kimura 等人(2017)分别在现实和 VR 版本的矩形房间内开展空间重定向测试,发现个体在这两种环境下对于空间中不同类型的视觉线索的利用存在差异,相较于现实世界,在 VR 中人们更依赖于离散的、突出的线索,而更少利用空间布局的几何特征线索。

知觉线索与加工模式等方面的差异,会对个体的空间导航行为及任务表现造成一定影响。van der Ham 等人(2015)发现参与者在现实环境中的空间记忆表现更好,并通过实验证明了 VR 中的任务表现较差是由于缺乏身体的直接参与。Savino 等人(2019)发现参与者在虚拟环境中感受到更大的任务负荷,并且任务表现更差。Kalantari 等人(2024)研究表明,与现实环境相比,在虚拟环境中参与者探索的时间和距离更长,表现出更多的信息寻求行为,但是空间导航表现更差,即在决策路口处出现更多的错误转向,且方向判断偏差也更大。研究者从参与者主观报告的指标中推测,正是由于在 VR 中感受到的不确定性、认知负荷和任务难度都更大,从而激发了更多的信息

寻求行为、更广泛的探索,以及将更多时间耗费在寻找指示牌和其他环境线索上,因而导致寻径表现和空间记忆变差。

这些不一致的结果,一定程度上可以归因于VR技术的变化。Sanchez-Vives 和 Slater (2005)在研究中对现实世界与虚拟世界的视觉复杂性,表明即使再高端的计算机也无法复现物理世界的复杂。然而,这项研究是近20年前开展的,当时的分辨率和图像处理能力远不如今时。此外,VR的真实感不仅取决于视觉保真度,还取决于对用户身体追踪的质量、帧率、延迟,以及内容设计等其他因素(Cummings & Bailenson, 2016)。

目前而言,VR与现实存在一定差异是难以避免的。在现实世界中走动时,个体能够获得全身的动觉反馈,比VR中的运动需要消耗更多的体力;VR在复制现实世界中固有的多感官线索方面也存在不足,如气味、声音和细粒度的触觉等,在VR当中这些线索的缺失,甚至是线索之间存在冲突,都会对空间导航活动造成干扰;再加上感知距离、速度的差异,以及自身行为的反馈感受的缺失等,都有可能致个体在VR中表现得与在现实世界中不尽相同,如头部运动减少、出现“隧道视觉(Tunnel vision)”等(Ewart & Johnson, 2021)。不过,值得肯定的是,VR相关技术正在以迅猛的速度发展,人们对VR设备的熟悉度也在逐渐提高,以往研究中发现的系列问题很有可能在新的技术环境下得到改善。正如Ewart和Johnson (2021)所说,我们的研究往往滞后于技术的发展,过去有关VR和现实世界的差异的结论很可能并不适用于当前的VR系统。因此,研究人员需要在论文中说明采用的软硬件设备版本,并持续关注新技术的变化,对其研究结果进行适时的验证与更新。

3 空间导航VR测验的设计

基于仿真的测评旨在通过模拟真实世界中的情境或任务,充分调动受测者的目标能力,从而提供更准确、全面的评估结果。对于空间导航能力而言,测评工具的仿真性一方面体现在视觉呈现上,主要由显示设备决定;另一方面体现在交互方式上,即如何模拟人们在真实空间中的移动,主要取决于采用何种移动技术(Locomotion technique)。测验设计者需要明确不同的显示设备

与移动技术会对受测者的表现带来什么影响,以及这种影响是否因任务的不同而存在差异。

虚拟现实技术极大地拓展了测评的情境与交互类型,允许测验设计者拥有较大的自由发挥空间,但同时应该保证测评内容、流程及形式的科学性和有效性。通过梳理以往空间导航相关任务的设计逻辑,第3.2节总结并提出了常见测评范式的设计框架。

在场景与任务的设计方面,虚拟现实技术的优势体现在变量操纵的全面性和便捷性,测验设计者可以根据测评需求增添或简化场景的环境要素以及任务的规则,从而灵活地调控测验的难度。第3.3节对影响空间导航表现的环境因素作了系统的整理。

3.1 显示设备与移动技术的选择

近年来,VR头显提供的视野广度(Field of View, FOV)不断提高,六自由度追踪技术(Six Degrees of Freedom tracking, 6-DOF)得到普遍应用,极大地提升了VR产品的仿真效果(Jensen & Konradsen, 2018; Penelope & Emmanuel, 2022)。Ragan等人(2015)提出了评价VR保真度(Fidelity)的三个维度,分别为显示保真度(Display fidelity)、交互保真度(Interaction fidelity)和场景保真度(Scenario fidelity)。以往应用VR的空间导航研究中,设备的配置组合存在较大差异。通常情况下,较高的保真度能够增强受测者的沉浸感、参与度和表现,但同时要考虑到受测者对设备的熟悉性与使用感受。

对于空间导航测验,研究者最关心的往往是显示保真度与交互保真度,主要取决于显示设备与移动技术的选择。其中,最常用的两类显示设备为桌面式VR(Desktop VR)与头戴式VR(Headsets/HMD)。桌面式VR又称为非沉浸式(Non-immersive)VR,是一套基于普通PC平台的小型桌面虚拟现实系统,利用中低端图形工作站及立体显示器产生虚拟场景,用户通过键盘、鼠标、手柄(Joystick)等手控输入设备与场景进行交互;头戴式VR利用头戴式显示设备将人对外界的视觉、听觉封闭,使用户沉浸于虚拟环境中,其3D视觉原理为在左右眼屏幕分别呈现不同的图像,人眼获取这种带有差异的信息后在脑海中产生立体感。头戴式VR能够为用户营造更强的沉浸体验,其适配的交互设备种类也更加丰富。

许多研究比较了这两类显示设备对参与者的空间导航表现以及使用体验的影响。早期的研究发现, 受测者在桌面式 VR 中表现得更好, 并且电子游戏经验仅对桌面式 VR 中的表现存在影响(Elmqvist et al., 2008; Sousa Santos et al., 2009)。Sousa Santos 等人(2009)针对用户体验进行了访谈, 大部分受测者反映佩戴 VR 头显时存在一定的眩晕感, 并且设备连接线的缠绕容易干扰他们的转向行为。然而, 这种情况随着显示设备的保真度和便携性的提升逐渐得到改善, 近几年越来越多研究表明头戴式 VR 比桌面式 VR 带来的沉浸感更加强烈(Buttussi & Chittaro, 2018; Buttussi & Chittaro, 2023; Kim et al., 2014), 并且使用 VR 头显的参与者对虚拟环境的探索更加充分(Feng et al., 2022; Ruddle et al., 2014)。

值得注意的是, 显示设备的使用效果与搭配的移动技术息息相关。通过特定的虚拟移动技术(Virtual Locomotion Technique)能够使虚拟主体在 VR 环境中任意移动, 同时保持参与者的身体在有限的现实空间中相对静止或小范围位移(Templeman et al., 1999), 又称为原地移动技术(In-place Locomotion Technique; Buttussi & Chittaro, 2023)。其中较为简易且常见的设备主要包括: 键盘、鼠标(或是二者结合)以及手柄, 这类设备只需要用户站或坐在原地即可控制虚拟环境中的移动。早些年的研究大多支持采用键盘或鼠标(Lapointe et al., 2011; Thrash et al., 2015), 这可能是由于当时人们对于键鼠操作相对更加熟悉, 省去了练习手柄操作的成本。随着 VR 产品的普及和设备交互保真度的提升, 手柄逐渐成为了 VR 的主流配件, 同时伴随着新的问题的出现, 即采用传送(Teleportation)还是连续移动(Continuous locomotion/Steering)的方式效果更好? 传送是指用户通过手柄发射出的激光指向远处的某一位置, 点击按钮后瞬间移动到该位置; 连续移动是指按住手柄上的按钮以恒定速度行走。多数研究发现相较于连续移动, 采用传送的方式带来的晕动感更弱一些, 沉浸感更强, 并且在空间导航任务中也表现更佳(Buttussi & Chittaro, 2021; Buttussi & Chittaro, 2023; Langbehn et al., 2018), 但也有研究者认为传送方式下的空间感受不连贯, 采用连续移动的方式更不容易眩晕(Feng et al., 2022)。Buttussi 和 Chittaro (2023)发现这两种移动技术对

空间导航表现的影响取决于显示设备类型(头戴式 VR vs. 桌面式 VR)、虚拟环境类型(室内 vs. 室外)以及所测的空间知识类型等, 此外 Cherep 等人(2022)发现对传送方式的适应情况存在个体差异。因此, 研究者在这两种移动技术之间抉择时应综合考虑其设备配置、场景与任务类型以及使用对象等因素。

人类在现实空间中行走时, 除了外界的视觉信息, 来自身体运动的内部反馈对于空间更新(Spatial updating)过程也至关重要, 传达了有关方向(前庭觉)和位置(本体感觉)改变的信息, 个体将这些不同来源的信息在大脑中进行整合, 组织成一定形式的空间表征(Montello, 2005)。而当来自现实世界的感觉输入与来自 VR 的感觉输入发生冲突时, 参与者可能会出现晕屏症(Cybersickness), 即感到恶心、头痛和眼睛疲劳等症状(Chang et al., 2020; Liu, 2014)。使用原地移动技术, 尤其是身体静止的情况下, 参与者没有获得来自身体运动的信息, 而其视野内的场景却在不断推移, 由此引发的感觉输入之间的冲突很容易造成晕屏症, 削弱参与者在空间导航任务中的表现(He et al., 2019c; Ruddle et al., 2011)。Templeman 等人(1999)认为, 生态化的移动技术应该与现实人类运动的机制和特点相似, 例如, 身体持续参与运动控制并感受到体力消耗、视觉流信息更新的速度与行走速度保持一致、行走过程中可以解放双手进行其他操作、无需过分担心摔倒的问题等。

van der Ham 等人(2015)探究了身体运动和方向信息这两个要素对空间导航表现的影响。该实验设置了四种条件, 第一种是桌面式 VR, 即参与者在实验过程中保持坐姿, 与电脑屏幕上的虚拟环境互动; 第二种条件在前一种的基础上额外提供方向信息, 即在屏幕上呈现指南针; 第三种条件是在现实环境中行走; 第四种条件采用了“虚实结合(hybrid)”的方式, 旨在检验“身体运动”这一因素的影响, 即参与者在一片空地上行走, 同时手持平板电脑查看自己在虚拟环境中的当前位置与道路情况, 通过 GPS 实时跟踪技术进行位置的即时更新。结果表明, 在指向与地图绘制任务上, 后两种条件下的表现显著更佳, 说明身体的直接参与对于空间记忆表现, 尤其是测绘知识的形成具有重要作用。

虽然亲身行走的形式最贴合人类实际的运动方式,但这对设备成本、场地规模、跟踪技术和安全保障等因素都有较高的要求。因此,Riecke等人(2010)尝试将对虚拟移动的控制分解为两个方面,一是对转向的控制,二是对行进的控制,并探究在VR中这两种控制是否都需要身体的直接参与。他们比较了在使用VR头显的情况下,分别搭配三种移动技术方案对于空间导航表现的影响,第一种是用手柄控制转向和行进,第二种是亲身行走,第三种是通过手柄控制行进、身体原地旋转控制转向。结果表明,第三种方案下的空间导航表现显著优于第一种,且与亲身行走的效果几乎一致。这一发现具有重要意义,证明了仅允许身体原地旋转就能显著提升参与者的沉浸感并减弱眩晕感,这种方案能够实现经济效益与生态效度的平衡。后来的研究也陆续支持了这一结论(Cherep et al., 2020; Cherep et al., 2022; Kelly et al., 2020; Lim et al., 2020)。如今,越来越多的移动技术支持参与者在较小的空间范围内活动,如线性跑步机、万向跑步机(Ruddle et al., 2013)或VR自行车等。

除了移动技术之外,身体所有权(Body Ownership)也是增强VR沉浸感与存在感(Presence)的核心要素之一,通过多感官反馈(视觉、听觉、触觉、本体感觉等)的同步刺激使用户在虚拟环境中获得虚拟身体属于自己的感知(Kiltner et al., 2012; Spanlang et al., 2014),例如“橡胶手错觉”(Botvinick & Cohen, 1998)。这类技术的关键在于不同感觉通道信息之间的同步性,例如“视觉-本体感觉”同步要求虚拟身体与用户对自身肢体位置的感知对齐,将虚拟身体及其肢体呈现在它应该出现的位置;“视觉-动觉”同步要求虚拟身体按照与现实身体相同的方式移动,其动作与用户真实动作高度一致,可通过动作捕捉或手柄追踪来实现;“视觉-触觉”同步的关键在于提供触觉反馈,例如当视野中的虚拟手触碰物体时,手柄同步震动。如此,即便受测者在头显中看不见自己的身体,也能获得较强的代入感。身体所有权除了能够减轻眩晕感之外,也有助于提升受测者在虚拟环境中的空间导航任务表现(Moon et al., 2022; Pan & de C Hamilton, 2018)。

在选定了显示设备与移动技术之后,研究者有必要考虑是否增设练习的环节。Grübel等人

(2017)发现,与VR设备交互的感知运动过程很大程度上影响个体的任务表现,因此研究者建议在测试前增加额外的练习,让受测者熟悉交互设备的操作,直至达到预设的表现标准后方可进入正式测试,避免与测量的目标能力产生混淆。练习时,应该逐步介绍虚拟环境、交互设备和测验任务,避免受测者因同时加工过多的信息而产生压力(Diersch et al., 2019)。此外,VR的一项重要优势在于对参与人群的包容性更大,能够覆盖一些特殊群体的需求(Kalantari & Neo, 2020),特别是针对老年人或神经系统疾病患者的空间导航能力评估,必须兼顾生态有效性和临床可行性,对交互元素和施测方案进行适当的优化(Colombo et al., 2024)。例如,应用跑步机时需要考虑到老年人感觉运动控制能力的衰退,为了避免摔倒的风险,他们往往会优先进行感觉运动过程的加工,这将占用完成任务所需的认知加工资源(Schäfer et al., 2006)。针对这一问题,Lövdén等人(2005)通过实验表明,如果提供助行器(即在跑步机上增设扶手),老年人的任务表现会得到改善;Schellenbach等人(2010)研究表明提前在跑步机上进行20分钟的步行训练足以使老年人达到稳定的步行模式。

3.2 常见测评范式的设计框架

空间导航是一种复合认知能力,涵盖了知觉、学习、表征、记忆、计划和定向等认知成分(Wolbers & Hegarty, 2010),难以通过单一任务对其进行全方面的测评(Thornberry et al., 2021),并且一直以来,空间导航相关测验缺乏统一的理论组织框架,导致了术语体系的混乱,具体表现为能力结构不清晰、同一类型任务测量的构念名称不统一、以及不同测验之间的关系不明确等问题(Sánchez-Escudero et al., 2024; Uttal et al., 2024)。通常而言,研究者会基于特定应用需求(如军事人员选拔;Hegarty & Waller, 2005)或针对特定能力维度(facets)来设计专门的导航任务,或在经典测验的基础上进行适应性的改造。不同研究者设计的测验任务种类繁多,但除了测量“视角转换(Perspective Taking)”这类能力会采用一些特殊形式的任务之外(Beatini et al., 2024; Brucato et al., 2023; Sophia & Carsten, 2024),其余范式基本上可以归结为“学习→测试”的两阶段形式(图1)。

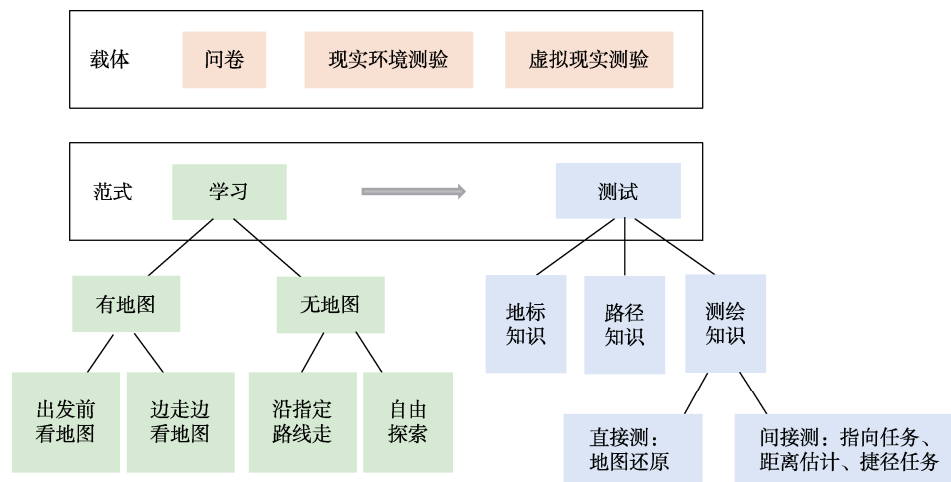


图 1 空间导航测验的常见设计框架

在学习阶段,首先根据是否提供地图可以分为两类,一类是在出发前提供整体布局的地图(Morganti et al., 2013; Spiers et al., 2023);另一类是始终不提供地图,受测者通过在场景中移动进行第一视角的空间学习,这种情况下,学习的方式又可以进一步分为两类,第一类是沿着研究者事先设计好的路线进行学习(Bullens et al., 2010; Hegarty et al., 2023; Weisberg et al., 2014; Weisberg & Newcombe, 2016),第二类是允许受测者在场景中自由行动(Brunec et al., 2023; Gagnon et al., 2018; Thornberry et al., 2021),这种形式更加贴合人们在日常生活中的探索方式,并且有助于揭示空间学习模式的个体间差异,但在流程控制方面容易引入干扰变量,影响数据质量。测验设计者应该综合考虑测量目的、变量控制、数据分析思路等方面因素之后确定学习阶段的形式。

测试阶段的目的在于评估受测者进行空间学习之后形成的空间知识(Spatial Knowledge)的水平,或者称为空间表征(Spatial Representation)的形式。对此,最常见的评价框架是Siegel和White(1975)提出的“地标-路径-测绘模型(Landmark-Route-Survey Model)”。他们认为,人们在新环境中形成空间知识表征大致经历三个阶段,第一阶段是地标知识(Landmark knowledge),即对环境中突出的、可识别的物体或场景特征的记忆;第二阶段是路径知识(Route knowledge),由一定顺序的地标和相关的决策组成,例如“在加油站左

转,直走经过两个路口到达邮局”,这一阶段的空间知识尚不具备角度、距离等度量信息;第三阶段是测绘知识(Survey knowledge),即以非中心化参照系(Allocentric reference system)将空间信息整合成类似于“地图”一样精细而稳定的表征,不随个体位置的移动而发生变化。后续的实证研究表明,这三种空间知识的发展并不一定严格遵循先后顺序,例如有研究发现,人们可以在接触新环境后的短时间内完成需要依赖于度量信息的任务,如找到捷径、估计方向或距离等(Loomis et al., 1993)。此外,不同表征既可以分开起作用,也可以同时并存(Peer et al., 2021),并且形成各类空间表征的速度与顺序存在较大的个体间差异(Ishikawa, 2023; Maxim & Brown, 2023)。

表 1 整理了常见的针对三类空间知识的评估任务。其中,对测绘知识的评估有两种思路,一种是要求受测者绘制或补全地图从而实现直接测量,另一种是基于特定的任务间接测量,研究者假定个体只有在形成了具备度量信息的测绘知识之后,才能顺利完成这些任务,如指向任务、距离估计任务、捷径任务等(Epstein et al., 2017; Newcombe, 2018)。

3.3 场景与任务设计: 环境因素的操控

在设计测验场景与任务时,需要充分、全面地考虑影响受测者表现的环境因素。影响空间导航活动的环境因素大致可以分为三类,分别是与任务相关、与视觉线索相关以及与空间布局复杂度相关的因素。

表 1 三类空间知识对应的评估任务

空间知识	任务名称	任务内容
地标知识	地标识别任务 (Landmark recognition task)	依次呈现一系列照片,要求受测者判断照片中的建筑或物体是否在先前学习的时候出现过(Stites et al., 2020; van der Ham et al., 2020) 同时呈现两张照片,一张是目标区域内的某个建筑或地点,另一张是相似的干扰项,要求受测者选择哪一张照片来自目标区域(Pullano et al., 2024)
	路线重走任务 (Route repetition task)	以第一人称视角将学习阶段走过的路线重走一遍(Muffato et al., 2016)
路径知识	路径知识任务 (Route knowledge task)	以照片形式呈现由起点通往终点过程中的各段路径,要求受测者将这些路径按照空间上的先后顺序进行排序(Pullano et al., 2024)。
	路径选择任务 (Path-route task)	在某一位置让受测者从 2 或 3 个方向中选择,通往目标地点的路径是哪个方向(van der Ham et al., 2020)
测绘知识	捷径任务(Shortcut task)	要求受测者用最短的路径到达目标地点,且最近的那条路线在学习阶段未曾直接走过 (He et al., 2023; Stites et al., 2020)
	指向任务(Pointing task)/方向估计任务(Direction estimation task)	要求受测者站在(或是想象自己站在)某个位置,指出无法直接看见的某个地标相较于当前位置所在的方向(He et al., 2023; Ishikawa & Montello, 2006; Muffato et al., 2016)
	距离估计任务 (Distance estimation task)	在一张空白纸上,用一条标准线表示一定长度的实际距离(例如用 2cm 长的线段代表 0.6km),要求受测者参照标准线画一条线来表示其估计的两个指定地点间的距离(Ishikawa & Montello, 2006)
		呈现三个地标,要求受测者从俯瞰视角想象并判断其中哪两个地标的距离最近(van der Ham et al., 2020)
	地图绘制任务 (Map drawing task)	要求受测者在一张空白纸上绘制先前学习过的某个空间的整体布局,还原其中一些建筑和道路的位置(Ishikawa & Montello, 2006; Muffato et al., 2016)
	地图补全任务 (Map completion task)	提供一张简化版的地图,要求受测者将起点、终点、指定的建筑或路线补充完整(Stites et al., 2020)
	测绘知识任务 (Survey knowledge task)	在一张简化版地图上标注若干个区域,同时在下方呈现若干张照片,要求受测者将每张照片中的建筑所在的位置对应到地图上相应的区域内(Pullano et al., 2024)
	建筑还原任务 (Model-building task)	呈现一个空白平面和若干个建筑的俯视图,要求受测者将每个建筑拖拽到空白平面上,还原场景的空间布局(Pagkratidou et al., 2020)

第一类是与任务相关的因素,即在制定任务规则以及设计题目(关卡)时需要考虑的因素,例如,任务是否限时完成,寻径任务中目标地点的数量、最短路经过的决策点数量、最短路线是否涉及大量的回溯行为等(Coutrot et al., 2022; Yesiltepe et al., 2023),以及方向判断任务中目标位置的方向与参照系的方向是否一致(He & McNamara, 2018)。研究者可以操纵此类变量来区分不同题目的难度,并通过预测试的结果对题目进行删减或修改。

第二类是与视觉线索相关的因素。日常生活中经常出现这样一种情况,一个人能够顺利地从 A 点走到 B 点,但当他不在这个场景中时,又无法用言语清晰地描述 A 到 B 这段路程。为了解释

这一现象,Conroy (2001) 将寻径过程中所需的空
间知识划分为两类,一类是“头脑中的知识”(Knowledge in the head),即记忆中有关该场景的信息或相关的决策经验,另一类是“世界中的知识”(Knowledge in the world),即该场景中的视觉线索,例如凸显的地标、指示牌、空间轮廓特征等。研究者在设计场景时,需要谨慎考虑哪些视觉线索能够起到辅助的作用,而哪些视觉线索会增加任务的难度。例如,环境中由楼房、高墙、树丛等物体形成的障碍会使空间的视野能见度降低,导致人的空间表征被切割为若干个相对独立的“子地图”,降低距离与方向估计的准确性,使得空间更新与路径整合变得更加困难,从而削弱空间导航的效率(He & Brown, 2019a; Horner et al.,

2016; Maxim & Brown, 2023; Meilinger et al., 2016)。要想操纵“障碍”这一变量,在现实空间中是难以实现的,VR则可以很好地解决这一问题,如有研究者创设了“透视”这一实验条件,即让部分建筑物变得透明,结果发现参与者在“透视”条件下的寻径任务和方向判断表现均显著提升(He et al., 2019b; He et al., 2020);此外还可以通过改变天气情况来操纵视野能见度,例如营造雨雪、大雾等视觉效果(Coutrot et al., 2022; Yesiltepe et al., 2023)。“障碍”作用的原理是通过改变视野能见度来操纵难度,除此之外还可以设置一些直接的辅助线索,例如道路指示牌(Farr et al., 2012; Johanson et al., 2023)、远端的全局线索(Peer et al., 2021; Wolbers & Hegarty, 2010)、提供地图等,且地图的呈现形式(Stites et al., 2020)以及是否存在部分遮挡(Coutrot et al., 2022)也会影响空间导航任务的难度。需要注意的是,过多的视觉线索可能会增大受测者的认知负荷,起到负面的效果,例如Nori等人(2023)在同样的虚拟场景中加入了来往的人群,发现受测者在任务过程中的空间焦虑水平显著升高,且空间导航表现也变得更差;在Farran等人(2015)的研究中,参与者在线索丰富与线索稀疏的两种环境中的空间导航表现没有显著差异,因此并不需要创设过于复杂的场景,避免引入额外的干扰因素。

第三类是与空间布局复杂度有关的因素,例如路口/决策点的数量(Richter, 2009)、“死胡同”(Dead ends)的数量(Yesiltepe et al., 2023)、环型道路的数量(Marquardt & Schmieg, 2009; Natapov et al., 2020)、决策点的平均选项数(又称为互联密度, Interconnection density)(Slone et al., 2016)、空间的几何结构特征(Kimura et al., 2017; Wolbers & Hegarty, 2010)、建筑排列的规律性(Barton et al., 2014)、街道网络熵(Street Network Entropy, SNE)(Batty et al., 2014; Boeing, 2019; Coutrot et al., 2022)等。值得注意的是,空间布局复杂度对空间导航表现的影响与所测任务类型有关(He et al., 2019c),对于路径知识而言,其本质上相当于若干个“刺激-反应”联结的序列,因此这类任务的难度主要受到决策点数量、地标数量以及地标间相似性的影响;而测绘知识的形成依赖于准确的空间更新与路径整合,主要受到视野能见度、道路朝向的变异性、建筑排列的规律性等因素的影

响,例如在网格状(Grid-like)的空间布局中往往能够更快地形成测绘知识(Peer et al., 2021)。

上述有关空间布局的影响因素可以借助空间句法中的指标实现量化,并加以操纵(He et al., 2019c; Li & Klippel, 2016; Pagkratidou et al., 2020; Yesiltepe et al., 2023)。空间句法(Space Syntax)是一套将数学建模手段运用在建筑与城市空间社会分析中的方法技术,如今广泛应用于城市规划、人文地理、心理学、旅游学、人类学等领域,有助于理解空间特征与人类行为之间的关系(Bafna, 2003)。Pagkratidou等人(2020)参考空间句法里的轴线图分析¹和视域分析²技术,运用其中的若干指标来量化不同区域的地理位置特征,检验其与空间记忆任务表现的关系。方向判断的结果表明,参与者在被要求指向整合度³、连接值⁴和选择度⁵较高的区域时判断得更准确,这些区域同时也是视觉整合度⁶和视觉连接值⁷较高的区域。这一发现对于此类任务的设计具有一定的启发作用,研究者可以借助空间句法计算不同区域的特征参数,并据此来调控任务的难度。还有研究将自由探索范式的过程性数据与空间句法相结合,发现在不熟悉的环境中,参与者更倾向于探索整合度较高的区域,从中能够更有效地获取空间信息并形成测绘表征(Brunec et al., 2023; Emo et al., 2012)。

除了针对以上三类环境因素进行操控以外,研究者还可以利用VR创设一些在现实世界中不可能存在的场景,例如错误的回路(Galbraith et al., 2009)、被压缩的建筑(Chan et al., 2023),或是在现实世界中无法实现的活动,如在两个不相邻的地

¹ 轴线图分析(Axial Map Analysis):以轴线为节点概括空间,用轴线的相交表征空间之间的衔接关系。

² 视域分析(Visibility Graph Analysis, VGA):衡量空间中元素间的相互可见性。通过设定一定大小的网格,量化空间中的每个点能够看见的其他点的数量。

³ 整合度(axial integration):衡量某位置在环境中的可达性,到达整合度较高的区域平均需要的转弯次数较少。

⁴ 连接值(axial connectivity):与某轴线相交的其他轴线的数量。

⁵ 选择度(axial choice):被空间中任意两个节点间的最短路径经过的频率,反映某一区域被穿行的可能性。

⁶ 视觉整合度(visual integration):从某个点出发到空间中其他点平均需要的视觉转折(visual steps)的次数。

⁷ 视觉连接值(visual connectivity):从某个点直接可见的点数。

点之间进行瞬时传送(Murphy & Glennerster, 2018; Vass et al., 2016; Warren et al., 2017)。这些特殊的虚拟环境设计对于理解人类空间导航的认知机制和个体间差异具有重要意义。

4 VR 测评工具的质量评价

随着虚拟现实技术与空间导航研究的适配性逐渐凸显,越来越多研究者使用VR作为测验载体改编经典的测评任务(Adamo et al., 2012; Commins et al., 2020; Rodgers et al., 2012; Thornberry et al., 2021; Weisberg et al., 2014; Xie et al., 2017)或是开发全新的、仿真的空间导航测评场景(Colombo et al., 2024; Feng et al., 2022; Ranjbar Pouya et al., 2017; Shi et al., 2021; Ventura et al., 2013)。尽管这种新型测评方式能够克服传统测验的部分局限性,但同时也引起了学界对此类测评工具的心理测量学质量的质疑,直接关系到相应的研究结果的解释。Sánchez-Escudero 等人(2024)根据 COSMIN 指南(Mokkink et al., 2018)系统地审查了 2012~2023 年间发表的基于 VR 或游戏的空间导航测评工具的质量,发现筛查出的 37 篇实证研究都没有报告完整的心理测量学质量检验结果。其中,仅有 2 篇研究(5.4%)报告了结构效度,分别采用探索性因子分析(Bellassen et al., 2012)和验证性因子分析(Allison et al., 2019)证明工具测量的能力结构。3 篇研究(8.1%)报告了内部一致性信度,Caffò 等人(2018)的虚拟重定向测试(Virtual Reorientation Test, VReoT)将五个子测验得分作为五道题,计算克隆巴赫 α 系数为 0.79; Allison 等人在两篇研究中分别报告了两个版本的认知地图任务(Cognitive mapping task)的信度,第一个版本的 $\alpha = 0.86$ (Allison et al., 2016),而在修订版本中,对于连续分数的内部一致性采用克隆巴赫 α 系数衡量(学习阶段 $\alpha = 0.83$, 回忆阶段 $\alpha = 0.35$),对于二分计分题的内部一致性采用库李 20 信度(Kuder Richardson-20)计算(地标识别任务 $KR_{20} = 0.87$, 场景识别任务 $KR_{20} = 0.87$, 自由回忆任务 $KR_{20} = 0.62$)。4 篇研究(10.8%)报告了 5 项测评工具的重测信度,均采用组内相关系数(Intraclass Correlation Coefficient, ICC)进行衡量(Allison et al., 2019; Coughlan et al., 2020; Park, 2022; Tarnanas et al., 2015)。10 篇研究(27%)报告

了 11 项测评工具的效标关联效度和诊断准确率(Allison et al., 2016, 2019; Bellassen et al., 2012; Caffò et al., 2012; Castegnaro et al., 2022; Coughlan et al., 2019; Da Costa et al., 2022; Laczó et al., 2022; Levine et al., 2020; Park, 2022),其中大部分研究报告了连续分数的 ROC 曲线下面积,有 7 篇研究根据约登指数(Youden's index)评估测验的灵敏度与特异度。9 篇研究(24.3%)报告了聚合效度,即工具的测评结果与神经心理学(neuropsychological)或神经科学(neurological)测量指标的相关(Castegnaro et al., 2022; Da Costa et al., 2022; Kunz et al., 2015; Laczó et al., 2022; Lee et al., 2014; Lesk et al., 2014; Morganti et al., 2013; Parizkova et al., 2018; Ritchie et al., 2018)。32 篇研究(86.5%)报告了 29 项测评工具的已知群体效度(Known-Group Validity),即检验测评工具能否有效区分已知在空间导航能力上存在差异的群体,如年轻人、AD 早期症状阶段的老年人以及 AD 晚期患者(Allison et al., 2016; Bayahya et al., 2021; Bellassen et al., 2012; Bierbrauer et al., 2020; Caffò et al., 2012, 2018; Castegnaro et al., 2022; Colmant et al., 2023; Coughlan et al., 2019; Da Costa et al., 2022; Davis & Sikorskii, 2020; Gellersen et al., 2021; Konishi et al., 2018; Kunz et al., 2015; Laczó et al., 2021, 2022; Lesk et al., 2014; Migo et al., 2016; Mohammadi et al., 2018; Morganti et al., 2013; Moussavi et al., 2022; Parizkova et al., 2018; Park, 2022; Pink et al., 2023; Plaza-Rosales et al., 2023; Puthusserypady et al., 2022; Ritchie et al., 2018; Serino et al., 2015, 2018; Tarnanas et al., 2012, 2015; Zen et al., 2013)。

虚拟现实作为一种新型测验载体,在交互方式、数据类型、变量控制、施测规模、用户体验和应用场景等方面都与传统纸笔测验存在较大差异。鉴于虚拟现实测评工具的复杂性,测验开发者与使用者应该从多个维度全面把控和评价 VR 测评工具的质量。Krohn 等人(2020)提出的 VR 质量评估检查框架(VR-Check),为神经心理学的认知测评研究提供了系统的范式优化指南。该框架包含以下 10 个评价维度:

(1)领域特异性(Domain Specificity),即 VR 范式实际测到所要测量的理论构念的程度。

(2)生态相关性(Ecological Relevance),即 VR

测评任务在多大程度上反映了日常生活中目标能力的运用情况,具体从环境、刺激和活动三个方面判断任务的相关性。

(3)技术可行性(Technical Feasibility),即设计的任务是否可以在VR中合理地实现、设备之间是否兼容、施测场地是否存在限制等问题。

(4)用户可行性(User Feasibility),即VR测验的交互方式、任务难度、测试时长、注意力要求、眩晕程度等对于测量的目标群体而言是否可以接受的。

(5)用户动机(User Motivation),根据可能促进用户参与积极性的因素来评估,如趣味性、奖惩机制、测验的表面效度等。

(6)任务可改编性(Task Adaptability),即是否容易开发测验的平行版本、任务难度是否容易调控等。

(7)用户表现可量化(Performance Quantification),VR能够在时间和空间上以较高的分辨率追踪并记录用户的行为,因此能否自动化地衡量用户的表现是一个重要的评价维度。

(8)沉浸度(Immersive Capacities),从两个角度进行评估,一是VR系统的客观技术属性,二是用户对于虚拟环境带来的“现场感(Presence)”的主观体验。

(9)训练可行性(Training Feasibility),即VR测验除了诊断功能以外,能否作为训练工具重复应用。

(10)可预见的缺陷(Predictable Pitfalls),即在VR测验的设计与开发过程中是否预见并规避可能存在的缺陷,是否对资源消耗和潜在的知识收益进行合理的权衡。

相较于心理测量学中的测验质量评价标准,VR-Check框架的前两条内容同样强调结构效度和生态效度的重要性,但并没有关注测评工具的信度,在Sánchez-Escudero等人(2024)的综述中,也仅有8.1%的实证研究报告了VR测评工具的信度分析结果,并且几乎都无法达到纸笔测验的信度水平。在涉及与场景互动的空间导航VR测验中,通常需要一定的学习耗时,在施测时长有限的情况下往往无法进行大题量的测试,这可能是导致此类工具信度估计精度不足的主要原因之一。

VR-Check框架的突出贡献在于从多个维度对VR测评工具的最佳范本作出了定义。然而,当

前甚至未来的VR测验或许都难以同时满足所有的评价标准。在实际应用中,VR-Check更适合作为测验开发的不同阶段的指导框架,建议研究者在测验设计初期逐条检查并确认哪些条目对于当前测评的目标而言更为重要,以及是否需要在不同条目之间作出权衡和取舍,例如,追求沉浸式、高仿真的虚拟环境容易引入与测量目标无关的变量,可能会影响测评任务的变量控制以及信效度。

5 讨论

现有的空间相关能力测验大多是出于特定岗位人才选拔或是疾病筛查等应用需求开发的,缺乏对理论框架与能力界定的充分描述、完整的心理测量学质量检验(Newcombe et al., 2023; Sánchez-Escudero et al., 2024)、具体的记分方式与常模说明,甚至没有公开的获取方式等等,这一系列问题限制了有效的学术交流与应用。Uttal等人(2024)指出,现阶段对已有的空间思维(Spatial Thinking)相关测验作系统的整理与审查是非常必要的。本研究着重关注空间思维中的大尺度认知能力,即空间导航能力,探讨面向空间导航能力的虚拟现实测验设计的一系列关键问题。

以虚拟现实作为测验载体是测评智能化趋势的重要体现。通过虚拟现实技术,能够实现有限场地空间内模拟任意场景和环境条件下的空间导航活动,在保证测验控制与标准化的同时极大地提升了测评场景的可拓展性。未来研究需要进一步克服该领域中存在的一系列挑战。首先是当前技术条件下出现的问题,例如画面帧率较低、交互延迟较长容易导致晕屏症或晕动症,限制受测者的能力发挥,并且这种影响的大小存在个体差异(Chang et al., 2020);电子游戏经验的个体间差异导致对任务和交互操作的熟悉性不同,也会干扰测试结果(Murias et al., 2016; Richardson et al., 2011);使用新型交互设备往往需要一定的学习成本,存在许多不确定性。研究者应该积极采取措施应对这些问题,例如在正式施测之前提供足够的练习机会;收集相关的个体差异信息用于统计控制,如晕动症易感性(Susceptibility of Motion-sickness);尽可能简化任务的交互规则,减轻额外的认知负荷等。其次,未来的虚拟现实测验或将迎来技术驱动的变革,例如融合眼动、脑电及生物反馈等多模态数据对空间导航能力进

行多模态指标相互印证的精准评估。最后,研究者应重视工具与数据的开源性问题,允许测评工具接受不同研究者的重复使用、改编拓展及质量审查,并持续关注新技术的发展,对研究结果进行适时的验证与更新。

人与虚拟现实的交互特征及机制是心理学与人工智能等学科的交叉议题,相关的技术设备正以日新月异的速度不断更迭,人们对虚拟现实的熟悉度也在逐渐提升,其中存在着诸多机遇与挑战。未来需要更多相关领域的研究者展开协作,将持续发展的虚拟现实技术融入空间导航能力测验的开发,帮助揭示空间导航的认知机制,实现更加精准高效的能力评估,并不断拓展虚拟现实技术在心理学研究中的应用场景。

参考文献

- 张凤翔, 陈美璇, 蒲艺, 孔祥祯. (2023). 空间导航能力个体差异的多层次形成机制. *心理科学进展*, 31(9), 1642–1664.
- Adamo, D. E., Briceño, E. M., Sindone, J. A., Alexander, N. B., & Moffat, S. D. (2012). Age differences in virtual environment and real world path integration. *Frontiers in Aging Neuroscience*, 4, 26.
- Allison, S. L., Fagan, A. M., Morris, J. C., & Head, D. (2016). Spatial navigation in preclinical Alzheimer's disease. *Journal of Alzheimer's Disease*, 52(1), 77–90.
- Allison, S. L., Rodebaugh, T. L., Johnston, C., Fagan, A. M., Morris, J. C., & Head, D. (2019). Developing a spatial navigation screening tool sensitive to the preclinical Alzheimer disease continuum. *Archives of Clinical Neuropsychology*, 34(7), 1138–1155. <https://doi.org/10.1093/arclin/acz019>
- Bafna, S. (2003). Space Syntax: A brief introduction to its logic and analytical techniques. *Environment and Behavior*, 35(1), 17–29. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0013916502238863>
- Barton, K. R., Valtchanov, D., & Ellard, C. (2014). Seeing beyond your visual field: The influence of spatial topology and visual field on navigation performance. *Environment and Behavior*, 46(4), 507–529. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0013916512466094>
- Batty, M., Morphet, R., Masucci, P., & Stanilov, K. (2014). Entropy, complexity, and spatial information. *Journal of Geographical Systems*, 16(4), 363–385. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10109-014-0202-2>
- Bayahya, A. Y., Alhalabi, W., & Alamri, S. H. (2021). Smart health system to detect dementia disorders using virtual reality. *Healthcare*, 9(7), 810. <https://doi.org/10.3390/healthcare9070810>
- Beatini, V., Cohen, D., Di Tore, S., Pellerin, H., Aiello, P., Sibilio, M., & Berthoz, A. (2024). Measuring perspective taking with the “virtual class” videogame: A child development study. *Computers in Human Behavior*, 151, 108012.
- Bellassen, V., Iglói, K., de Souza, L. C., Dubois, B., & Rondi-Reig, L. (2012). Temporal order memory assessed during spatiotemporal navigation as a behavioral cognitive marker for differential Alzheimer's disease diagnosis. *Journal of Neuroscience*, 32(6), 1942–1952.
- Bhagavathula, R., Williams, B., Owens, J., & Gibbons, R. (2018). The reality of virtual reality: A comparison of pedestrian behavior in real and virtual environments. *Proceedings of the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society Annual Meeting*, 62(1), 2056–2060. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1541931218621464>
- Bierbrauer, A., Kunz, L., Gomes, C. A., Luhmann, M., Deuker, L., Getzmann, S., ... Axmacher, N. (2020). Unmasking selective path integration deficits in Alzheimer's disease risk carriers. *Science Advances*, 6(35), eab1394.
- Boeing, G. (2019). Urban spatial order: Street network orientation, configuration, and entropy. *Applied Network Science*, 4(1), Article 67.
- Botvinick, M., & Cohen, J. (1998). Rubber hands ‘feel’ touch that eyes see. *Nature*, 391(6669), 756–756. <https://doi.org/10.1038/35784>
- Brookes, J., Warburton, M., Alghadier, M., Mon-Williams, M., & Mushtaq, F. (2020). Studying human behavior with virtual reality: The Unity Experiment Framework. *Behavior Research Methods*, 52(2), 455–463. <https://doi.org/10.3758/s13428-019-01242-0>
- Brucato, M., Frick, A., Pichelmann, S., Nazareth, A., & Newcombe, N. S. (2023). Measuring spatial perspective taking: Analysis of four measures using Item Response Theory. *Topics in Cognitive Science*, 15(1), 46–74. <https://doi.org/10.1111/tops.12597>
- Brune, I. K., Nantais, M. M., Sutton, J. E., Epstein, R. A., & Newcombe, N. S. (2023). Exploration patterns shape cognitive map learning. *Cognition*, 233, 105360.
- Bullens, J., Iglói, K., Berthoz, A., Postma, A., & Rondi-Reig, L. (2010). Developmental time course of the acquisition of sequential egocentric and allocentric navigation strategies. *Journal of Experimental Child Psychology*, 107(3), 337–350.
- Burles, F., Liu, I., Hart, C., Murias, K., Graham, S. A., & Iaria, G. (2020). The emergence of cognitive maps for spatial navigation in 7-to 10-year-old children. *Child Development*, 91(3), e733–e744.
- Buttussi, F., & Chittaro, L. (2018). Effects of different types of virtual reality display on presence and learning in a safety training scenario. *IEEE Transactions on Visualization and Computer Graphics*, 24(2), 1063–1076. <https://doi.org/10.1109/TVCG.2017.2653117>
- Buttussi, F., & Chittaro, L. (2021). Locomotion in place in virtual reality: A comparative evaluation of joystick, teleport, and leaning. *IEEE Transactions on Visualization and Computer Graphics*, 27(1), 125–136. <https://doi.org/>

- 10.1109/TVCG.2019.2928304
- Buttussi, F., & Chittaro, L. (2023). Acquisition and retention of spatial knowledge through virtual reality experiences: Effects of VR setup and locomotion technique. *International Journal of Human-Computer Studies*, 177, 103067. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijhcs.2023.103067>
- Caffò, A. O., De Caro, M. F., Picucci, L., Notarnicola, A., Settanni, A., Livrea, P., Lancioni, G. E., & Bosco, A. (2012). Reorientation deficits are associated with amnesic mild cognitive impairment. *American Journal of Alzheimer's Disease and Other Dementias*, 27(5), 321–330.
- Caffò, A. O., Lopez, A., Spano, G., Serino, S., Cipresso, P., Stasolla, F., ... Bosco, A. (2018). Spatial reorientation decline in aging: The combination of geometry and landmarks. *Aging and Mental Health*, 22(10), 1372–1383. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13607863.2017.1354973>
- Castegnaro, A., Howett, D., Li, A., Harding, E., Chan, D., Burgess, N., & King, J. (2022). Assessing mild cognitive impairment using object-location memory in immersive virtual environments. *Hippocampus*, 32(9), 660–678. <https://doi.org/10.1002/hipo.23458>
- Chan, H. M., Ding, J., & Saunders, J. A. (2023). Does viewing an environment without occluders improve spatial learning of a large-scale virtual environment? *Journal of Environmental Psychology*, 92, 102156. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jenvp.2023.102156>
- Chang, E., Kim, H. T., & Yoo, B. (2020). Virtual reality sickness: A review of causes and measurements. *International Journal of Human-Computer Interaction*, 36(17), 1658–1682.
- Cherep, L. A., Kelly, J. W., Miller, A., Lim, A. F., & Gilbert, S. B. (2022). Individual differences in teleporting through virtual environments. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Applied*, 29(1), 111–123
- Cherep, L. A., Lim, A. F., Kelly, J. W., Acharya, D., Velasco, A., Bustamante, E., Ostrander, A. G., & Gilbert, S. B. (2020). Spatial cognitive implications of teleporting through virtual environments. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Applied*, 26(3), 480–492. <https://doi.org/10.1037/xap0000263>
- Cogné, M., Taillade, M., N'Kaoua, B., Tarruella, A., Klinger, E., Larue, F., ... Sorita, E. (2017). The contribution of virtual reality to the diagnosis of spatial navigation disorders and to the study of the role of navigational aids: A systematic literature review. *Annals of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine*, 60(3), 164–176.
- Colmant, L., Bierbrauer, A., Bellaali, Y., Kunz, L., Van Dongen, J., Slegers, K., ... Hanseeuw, B. (2023). Dissociating effects of aging and genetic risk of sporadic Alzheimer's disease on path integration. *Neurobiology of Aging*, 131, 170–181.
- Colombo, G., Minta, K., Grübel, J., Tai, W. L. E., Hölscher, C., & Schinazi, V. R. (2024). Detecting cognitive impairment through an age-friendly serious game: The development and usability of the Spatial Performance Assessment for Cognitive Evaluation (SPACE). *Computers in Human Behavior*, 160, 108349. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chb.2024.108349>
- Commings, S., Duffin, J., Chaves, K., Leahy, D., Corcoran, K., Caffrey, M., ... Thornberry, C. (2020). NavWell: A simplified virtual-reality platform for spatial navigation and memory experiments. *Behavior Research Methods*, 52(3), 1189–1207. <https://doi.org/10.3758/s13428-019-01310-5>
- Conroy, R. (2001). *Spatial navigation in immersive virtual environments*. Istanbul Technical University.
- Coughlan, G., Coutrot, A., Khondoker, M., Minihane, A. M., Spiers, H., & Hornberger, M. (2019). Toward personalized cognitive diagnostics of at-genetic-risk Alzheimer's disease. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America*, 116(19), 9285–9292. <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1901600116>
- Coughlan, G., Laczó, J., Hort, J., Minihane, A. M., & Hornberger, M. (2018). Spatial navigation deficits — Overlooked cognitive marker for preclinical Alzheimer disease? *Nature Reviews Neurology*, 14(8), 496–506.
- Coughlan, G., Puthusserypady, V., Lowry, E., Gillings, R., Spiers, H., Minihane, A. M., & Hornberger, M. (2020). Test-retest reliability of spatial navigation in adults at-risk of Alzheimer's disease. *PLoS ONE*, 15(9), e0239077. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0239077>
- Coutrot, A., Manley, E., Goodroe, S., Gahnstrom, C., Filomena, G., Yesiltepe, D., ... Spiers, H. J. (2022). Entropy of city street networks linked to future spatial navigation ability. *Nature*, 604(7904), 104–110.
- Coutrot, A., Schmidt, S., Coutrot, L., Pittman, J., Hong, L., Wiener, J. M., ... Spiers, H. J. (2019). Virtual navigation tested on a mobile app is predictive of real-world wayfinding navigation performance. *PloS One*, 14(3), e0213272.
- Cummings, J. J., & Bailenson, J. N. (2016). How immersive is enough? A meta-analysis of the effect of immersive technology on user presence. *Media Psychology*, 19(2), 272–309.
- Cushman, L. A., Stein, K., & Duffy, C. J. (2008). Detecting navigational deficits in cognitive aging and Alzheimer disease using virtual reality. *Neurology*, 71(12), 888–895.
- Da Costa, R. Q. M., Pompeu, J. E., Moretto, E., Silva, J. M., Dos Santos, M. D., Nitrini, R., & Brucki, S. M. D. (2022). Two immersive virtual reality tasks for the assessment of spatial orientation in older adults with and without cognitive impairment: Concurrent validity, group comparison, and accuracy results. *Journal of the International Neuropsychological Society*, 28(5), 460–472. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S1355617721000655>
- Davis, R., & Sikorskii, A. (2020). Eye tracking analysis of visual cues during wayfinding in early stage Alzheimer's disease. *Dementia and Geriatric Cognitive Disorders*, 49(1), 91–97.
- Diersch, N., Wolbers, T., el Jundi, B., Kelber, A., & Webb, B.

- (2019). The potential of virtual reality for spatial navigation research across the adult lifespan. *Journal of Experimental Biology*, 222(Suppl_1), jeb 187252.
- Dong, W., Qin, T., Yang, T., Liao, H., Liu, B., Meng, L., & Liu, Y. (2022). Wayfinding behavior and spatial knowledge acquisition: Are they the same in virtual reality and in real-world environments? *Annals of the American Association of Geographers*, 112(1), 226–246.
- Elmqvist, N., Tudoreanu, M. E., Tsigas, P. (2008). Evaluating motion constraints for 3D wayfinding in immersive and desktop virtual environments. In: *Proceeding of the Twenty-Sixth Annual CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems - CHI'08* (pp. 1769–1778). ACM Press, New York.
- Emo, B., Hoelscher, C., Wiener, J., & Dalton, R. (2012). Wayfinding and spatial configuration: Evidence from street corners. *Proceedings of the 8th International Space Syntax Symposium* (pp. 1–16). Santiago de Chile: PUC.
- Epstein, R. A., Patai, E. Z., Julian, J. B., & Spiers, H. J. (2017). The cognitive map in humans: Spatial navigation and beyond. *Nature Neuroscience*, 20(11), 1504–1513.
- Ewart, I. J., & Johnson, H. (2021). Virtual reality as a tool to investigate and predict occupant behaviour in the real world: The example of wayfinding. *ITcon*, 26, 286–302.
- Farr, A. C., Kleinschmidt, T., Yarlagadda, P., & Mengersen, K. (2012). Wayfinding: A simple concept, a complex process. *Transport Reviews*, 32(6), 715–743. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01441647.2012.712555>
- Farran, E. K., Purser, H. R. M., Courbois, Y., Balle, M., Sockeel, P., Mellier, D., & Blades, M. (2015). Route knowledge and configural knowledge in typical and atypical development: A comparison of sparse and rich environments. *Journal of Neurodevelopmental Disorders*, 7, 37.
- Feng, Y., Duives, D. C., & Hoogendoorn, S. P. (2022). Wayfinding behaviour in a multi-level building: A comparative study of HMD VR and desktop VR. *Advanced Engineering Informatics*, 51, 101475.
- Gagnon, K. T., Thomas, B. J., Munion, A., Creem-Regehr, S. H., Cashdan, E. A., & Stefanucci, J. K. (2018). Not all those who wander are lost: Spatial exploration patterns and their relationship to gender and spatial memory. *Cognition*, 180, 108–117.
- Galbraith, C., Zetsche, C., Schill, K., & Wolter, J. (2009). Representation of space: Image-like or sensorimotor? *Spatial Vision*, 22(5), 409–424. <https://doi.org/10.1163/156856809789476074>
- García-Betances, R. I., Arredondo Waldmeyer, M. T., Fico, G., & Cabrera-Umpiérrez, M. F. (2015). A succinct overview of virtual reality technology use in Alzheimer's disease. *Frontiers in Aging Neuroscience*, 7, 80.
- Gellersen, H. M., Coughlan, G., Hornberger, M., & Simons, J. S. (2021). Memory precision of object-location binding is unimpaired in APOE $\epsilon 4$ -carriers with spatial navigation deficits. *Brain Communications*, 3(2), fcab087. <https://doi.org/10.1093/braincomms/fcab087>
- Grübel, J., Thrash, T., Hölscher, C., & Schinazi, V. R. (2017). Evaluation of a conceptual framework for predicting navigation performance in virtual reality. *PLoS One*, 12(9), e0184682.
- He, C., Boone, A. P., & Hegarty, M. (2023). Measuring configural spatial knowledge: Individual differences in correlations between pointing and shortcutting. *Psychonomic Bulletin & Review*, 30(5), 1802–1813.
- He, Q., & Brown, T. I. (2019a). Environmental barriers disrupt grid-like representations in humans during navigation. *Current Biology*, 29(16), 2718–2722.e3. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cub.2019.06.072>
- He, Q., Han, A. T., Churaman, T. A., & Brown, T. I. (2020). The role of working memory capacity in spatial learning depends on spatial information integration difficulty in the environment. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: General*, 150(4), 666–685.
- He, Q., & McNamara, T. P. (2018). Spatial updating strategy affects the reference frame in path integration. *Psychonomic Bulletin & Review*, 25(3), 1073–1079. <https://doi.org/10.3758/s13423-017-1307-7>
- He, Q., McNamara, T. P., Bodenheimer, B., & Klippel, A. (2019c). Acquisition and transfer of spatial knowledge during wayfinding. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Learning, Memory, and Cognition*, 45(8), 1364–1386. <https://doi.org/10.1037/xlm0000654>
- He, Q., McNamara, T. P., & Brown, T. I. (2019b). Manipulating the visibility of barriers to improve spatial navigation efficiency and cognitive mapping. *Scientific Reports*, 9(1), 11567. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-019-48098-0>
- Hegarty, M., Richardson, A. E., Montello, D. R., Lovelace, K., & Subbiah, I. (2002). Development of a self-report measure of environmental spatial ability. *Intelligence*, 30(5), 425–447.
- Hegarty, M., He, C., Boone, A. P., Yu, S., Jacobs, E. G., & Chrastil, E. R. (2023). Understanding differences in wayfinding strategies. *Topics in Cognitive Science*, 15(1), 102–119.
- Hegarty, M., & Waller, D. A. (2005). Individual differences in spatial abilities. In P. Shah, & A. Miyake (Eds.), *The Cambridge handbook of visuospatial thinking* (pp. 121–169). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Horner, A. J., Bisby, J. A., Wang, A., Bogus, K., & Burgess, N. (2016). The role of spatial boundaries in shaping long-term event representations. *Cognition*, 154, 151–164. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cognition.2016.05.013>
- Ishikawa, T. (2023). Individual differences and skill training in cognitive mapping: How and why people differ. *Topics in Cognitive Science*, 15(1), 163–186.
- Ishikawa, T., & Montello, D. R. (2006). Spatial knowledge acquisition from direct experience in the environment: Individual differences in the development of metric knowledge and the integration of separately learned places.

- Cognitive Psychology*, 52(2), 93–129.
- Jensen, L., & Konradsen, F. (2018). A review of the use of virtual reality head-mounted displays in education and training. *Education and Information Technologies*, 23(4), 1515–1529.
- Johanson, C., Gutwin, C., & Mandryk, R. (2023). Trails, rails, and over-reliance: How navigation assistance affects route-finding and spatial learning in virtual environments. *International Journal of Human-Computer Studies*, 178, 103097. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijhcs.2023.103097>
- Kalantari, S., Mostafavi, A., Xu, T. B., Lee, A. S., & Yang, Q. (2024). Comparing spatial navigation in a virtual environment vs. an identical real environment across the adult lifespan. *Computers in Human Behavior*, 157, Article 108210. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chb.2024.108210>
- Kalantari, S., & Neo, J. R. J. (2020). Virtual environments for design research: Lessons learned from use of fully immersive virtual reality in interior design research. *Journal of Interior Design*, 45(3), 27–42.
- Kelly, J. W., Ostrander, A. G., Lim, A. F., Cherep, L. A., & Gilbert, S. B. (2020). Teleporting through virtual environments: Effects of path scale and environment scale on spatial updating. *IEEE Transactions on Visualization and Computer Graphics*, 26(5), 1841–1850. <https://doi.org/10.1109/TVCG.2020.2973051>
- Kilteni, K., Groten, R., & Slater, M. (2012). The sense of embodiment in virtual reality. *Presence: Teleoperators and Virtual Environment*, 21(4), 373–387. https://doi.org/10.1162/PRES_a_00124
- Kim, K., Rosenthal, M. Z., Zielinski, D. J., & Brady, R. (2014). Effects of virtual environment platforms on emotional responses. *Computer Methods and Programs in Biomedicine*, 113(3), 882–893.
- Kimura, K., Reichert, J. F., Olson, A., Pouya, O. R., Wang, X., Moussavi, Z., & Kelly, D. M. (2017). Orientation in virtual reality does not fully measure up to the real-world. *Scientific Reports*, 7(1), 18109. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-017-18289-8>
- Konishi, K., Joobar, R., Poirier, J., MacDonald, K., Chakravarty, M., Patel, R., Breitner, J., & Bohbot, V. D. (2018). Healthy versus entorhinal cortical atrophy identification in asymptomatic APOE4 carriers at risk for Alzheimer's disease. *Journal of Alzheimer's Disease*, 61(4), 1493–1507. <https://doi.org/10.3233/JAD-170540>
- Krohn, S., Tromp, J., Quinque, E. M., Belger, J., Klotzsche, F., Rekers, S., ... Thöne-Otto, A. (2020). Multidimensional evaluation of virtual reality paradigms in clinical neuropsychology: Application of the VR-Check framework. *Journal of Medical Internet Research*, 22(4), e16724. <https://doi.org/10.2196/16724>
- Kuliga, S. F., Thrash, T., Dalton, R. C., & Hölscher, C. (2015). Virtual reality as an empirical research tool — Exploring user experience in a real building and a corresponding virtual model. *Computers, Environment and Urban Systems*, 54, 363–375. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.compenvurbsys.2015.09.006>
- Kunz, L., Navarro Schröder, T., Lee, H., Montag, C., Lachmann, B., Sariyska, R., ... Axmacher, N. (2015). Reduced grid-cell-like representations in adults at genetic risk for Alzheimer's disease. *Science*, 350(6259), 430–433. <https://doi.org/10.1126/science.aac8128>
- Laczó, M., Martinkovic, L., Lerch, O., Wiener, J. M., Kalinova, J., Matuskova, V., ... Laczó, J. (2022). Different profiles of spatial navigation deficits in Alzheimer's disease biomarker-positive versus biomarker-negative older adults with amnesic mild cognitive impairment. *Frontiers in Aging Neuroscience*, 14, 886778.
- Laczó, M., Wiener, J. M., Kalinova, J., Matuskova, V., Vyhnalek, M., Hort, J., & Laczó, J. (2021). Spatial navigation and visuospatial strategies in typical and atypical aging. *Brain Sciences*, 11(11), 1421.
- Ladouce, S., Donaldson, D. I., Dudchenko, P. A., & Ietswaart, M. (2017). Understanding minds in real-world environments: Toward a mobile cognition approach. *Frontiers in Human Neuroscience*, 10, 694–694. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fnhum.2016.00694>
- Langbehn, E., Lubos, P., Steinicke, F. (2018). Evaluation of locomotion techniques for room-scale VR: Joystick, teleportation, and redirected walking. In: *Proceedings of ACM Virtual Reality International Conference (VRIC'18)*. ACM, New York, NY, USA. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3234253.3234291>.
- Lapointe, J.-F., Savard, P., & Vinson, N. G. (2011). A comparative study of four input devices for desktop virtual walkthroughs. *Computers in Human Behavior*, 27(6), 2186–2191. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chb.2011.06.014>
- Lawton, C. A. (1994). Gender differences in way-finding strategies: Relationship to spatial ability and spatial anxiety. *Sex Roles*, 30(11), 765–779.
- Lee, J., Kho, S., Yoo, H. B., Park, S., Choi, J., Kwon, J. S., Cha, K. R., & Jung, H.-Y. (2014). Spatial memory impairments in amnesic mild cognitive impairment in a virtual radial arm maze. *Neuropsychiatric Disease and Treatment*, 10, 653–660. <https://doi.org/10.2147/NDT.S58185>
- Lesk, V. E., Wan Shamsuddin, S. N., Walters, E. R., & Ugail, H. (2014). Using a virtual environment to assess cognition in the elderly. *Virtual Reality*, 18(4), 271–279. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10055-014-0252-2>
- Lester, A. W., Moffat, S. D., Wiener, J. M., Barnes, C. A., & Wolbers, T. (2017). The aging navigational system. *Neuron*, 95(5), 1019–1035.
- Levine, T. F., Allison, S. L., Stojanovic, M., Fagan, A. M., Morris, J. C., & Head, D. (2020). Spatial navigation ability predicts progression of dementia symptomatology. *Alzheimer's and Dementia*, 16(3), 491–500. <https://doi.org/10.1002/alz.12031>
- Li, R., & Klippel, A. (2016). Wayfinding behaviors in complex buildings: The impact of environmental legibility and familiarity. *Environment and Behavior*, 48(3), 482–

510. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0013916514550243>
- Lim, A. F., Kelly, J. W., Sepich, N. C., Cherep, L. A., Freed, G. C., & Gilbert, S. B. (2020). Rotational self-motion cues improve spatial learning when teleporting in virtual environments. In: *Proceedings of the 2020 ACM Symposium on spatial user interaction, SUI '20* (pp. 1–7). ACM, New York, NY, USA. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3385959.3418443>.
- Liu, C.-L. (2014). A study of detecting and combating cybersickness with fuzzy control for the elderly within 3d virtual stores. *International Journal of Human-Computer Studies*, 72(12), 796–804.
- Lloyd, J., Persaud, N. V., & Powell, T. E. (2009). Equivalence of real-world and virtual-reality route learning: A pilot study. *Journal of Cybertherapy and Rehabilitation*, 12(4), 423–427.
- Loomis, J. M., Klatzky, R. L., Golledge, R. G., Ciccinelli, J. G., Pellegrino, J. W., & Fry, P. A. (1993). Nonvisual navigation by blind and sighted: Assessment of path integration ability. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: General*, 122(1), 73–91.
- Lövdén, M., Schellenbach, M., Grossman-Hutter, B., Krüger, A. & Lindenberger, U. (2005). Environmental topography and postural control demands shape aging-associated decrements in spatial navigation performance. *Psychology & Aging*, 20(4), 683–694.
- Marín-Morales, J., Higuera-Trujillo, J. L., De-Juan-Ripoll, C., Llinares, C., Guixeres, J., Iñarra, S., & Alcañiz, M. (2019). Navigation comparison between a real and a virtual museum: Time-dependent differences using a head mounted display. *Interacting with Computers*, 31(2), 208–220. <https://doi.org/10.1093/iwc/iwz018>
- Marquardt, G., & Schmieg, P. (2009). Dementia-friendly architecture: Environments that facilitate wayfinding in nursing homes. *American Journal of Alzheimer's Disease & Other Dementias*, 24(4), 333–340. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1533317509334959>
- Maxim, P., & Brown, T. I. (2023). Toward an understanding of cognitive mapping ability through manipulations and measurement of schemas and stress. *Topics in Cognitive Science*, 15(1), 75–101.
- Meilinger, T., Strickrodt, M., & Bühlhoff, H. H. (2016). Qualitative differences in memory for vista and environmental spaces are caused by opaque borders, not movement or successive presentation. *Cognition*, 155, 77–95. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cognition.2016.06.003>
- Migo, E. M., O'Daly, O., Mitterschiffthaler, M., Antonova, E., Dawson, G. R., Dourish, C. T., ... Morris, R. G. (2016). Investigating virtual reality navigation in amnesic mild cognitive impairment using fMRI. *Neuropsychol. Development, and Cognition. Section B, Aging, Neuropsychology and Cognition*, 23(2), 196–217. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13825585.2015.1073218>
- Mohammadi, A., Kargar, M., & Hesami, E. (2018). Using virtual reality to distinguish subjects with multiple- but not single-domain amnesic mild cognitive impairment from normal elderly subjects. *Psychogeriatrics*, 18(2), 132–142. <https://doi.org/10.1111/psyg.12301>
- Mokkink, L. B., de Vet, H. C. W., Prinsen, C. A. C., Patrick, D. L., Alonso, J., Bouter, L. M., & Terwee, C. B. (2018). COSMIN risk of bias checklist for systematic reviews of patient-reported outcome measures. *Quality of Life Research*, 27(5), 1171–1179. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11136-017-1765-4>
- Montello, D. R. (2005). Navigation. In P. Shah, & A. Miyake (Eds.), *The Cambridge handbook of visuospatial thinking* (pp. 257–294). New York: Cambridge University Press.
- Moon, H.-J., Gauthier, B., Park, H.-D., Faivre, N., & Blanke, O. (2022). Sense of self impacts spatial navigation and hexadirectional coding in human entorhinal cortex. *Communications Biology*, 5(1), 406–406. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s42003-022-03361-5>
- Morganti, F., Stefanini, S., & Riva, G. (2013). From allo- to egocentric spatial ability in early Alzheimer's disease: A study with virtual reality spatial tasks. *Cognitive Neuroscience*, 4(3-4), 171–180.
- Moussavi, Z., Kimura, K., & Lithgow, B. (2022). Egocentric spatial orientation differences between Alzheimer's disease at early stages and mild cognitive impairment: A diagnostic aid. *Medical and Biological Engineering and Computing*, 60(2), 501–509. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11517-021-02478-9>
- Muffato, V., Meneghetti, C., & de Beni, R. (2016). Not all is lost in older adults' route learning? The role of visuo-spatial abilities and type of task. *Journal of Environmental Psychology*, 47, 230–241.
- Murias, K., Kwok, K., Castillejo, A. G., Liu, I., & Iaria, G. (2016). The effects of video game use on performance in a virtual navigation task. *Computers in Human Behavior*, 58, 398–406.
- Murphy, A., & Glennerster, A. (2018). Pointing errors in non-metric virtual environments. In CreemRegehr, S. et al. (Eds.), *Spatial Cognition XI* (pp. 43–57). Springer.
- Murphy, A., & Glennerster, A. (2018). *Pointing errors in non-metric virtual environments*. Cold Spring Harbor: <https://doi.org/10.1101/273532>
- Natapov, A., Kuliga, S., Dalton, R. C., & Holscher, C. (2020). Linking building-circulation typology and wayfinding: Design, spatial analysis, and anticipated wayfinding difficulty of circulation types. *Architectural Science Review*, 63(1), 34–46. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00038628.2019.1675041>
- Newcombe, N. S. (2018). Individual variation in human navigation. *Current Biology*, 28(17), R1004–R1008.
- Newcombe, N. S., Hegarty, M., & Uttal, D. (2023). Building a cognitive science of human variation: Individual differences in spatial navigation. *Topics in Cognitive Science*, 15(1), 6–14.
- Nori, R., Zucchelli, M. M., Palmiero, M., & Piccardi, L. (2023). Environmental cognitive load and spatial anxiety:

- What matters in navigation? *Journal of Environmental Psychology*, 88, 102032.
- Pagkratidou, M., Galati, A., & Avraamides, M. (2020). Do environmental characteristics predict spatial memory about unfamiliar environments? *Spatial Cognition and Computation*, 20(1), 1–32.
- Pan, X., & de C Hamilton, A. F. (2018). Why and how to use virtual reality to study human social interaction: The challenges of exploring a new research landscape. *British Journal of Psychology*, 109(3), 395–417. <https://doi.org/10.1111/bjop.12290>
- Parizkova, M., Lerch, O., Moffat, S. D., Andel, R., Mazancova, A. F., Nedelska, Z., ... Laczó, J. (2018). The effect of Alzheimer's disease on spatial navigation strategies. *Neurobiology of Aging*, 64, 107–115. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.neurobiolaging.2017.12.019>
- Park, J. H. (2022). Can the virtual reality-based spatial memory test better discriminate mild cognitive impairment than neuropsychological assessment? *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 19(16), 9950. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph19169950>
- Park, J. L., Dudchenko, P. A., & Donaldson, D. I. (2018). Navigation in real-world environments: New opportunities afforded by advances in mobile brain imaging. *Frontiers in Human Neuroscience*, 12, 361. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fnhum.2018.00361>
- Peer, M., Brunec, I. K., Newcombe, N. S., & Epstein, R. A. (2021). Structuring knowledge with cognitive maps and cognitive graphs. *Trends in Cognitive Sciences*, 25(1), 37–54.
- Penelope, A., & Emmanuel, F. (2022). A scoping review of the educational uses of 6DoF HMDs. *Virtual Reality*, 26(1), 205–222. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10055-021-00556-9>
- Pink, D., Ilkel, E., Chandreswaran, V., Moser, D., Getzmann, S., Patrick, G., Axmacher, N., & Zhang, H. (2023). Modeling the impact of genotype, age, sex, and continuous navigation on pathway integration performance. *BioRxiv*. <https://doi.org/10.1101/2023.09.11.556925>
- Plaza-Rosales, I., Brunetti, E., Montefusco-Siegmund, R., Madariaga, S., Hafelin, R., Ponce, D. P., Behrens, M. I., Maldonado, P. E., & Paula-Lima, A. (2023). Visual-spatial processing impairment in the occipital-frontal connectivity network at early stages of Alzheimer's disease. *Frontiers in Aging Neuroscience*, 15, 1097577. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fnagi.2023.1097577>
- Pullano, L., Foti, F., Liuzza, M. T., & Palermo, L. (2024). The role of place attachment and spatial anxiety in environmental knowledge. *Journal of Environmental Psychology*, 94, 102229.
- Puthusserypady, V., Morrissey, S., Spiers, H., Patel, M., & Hornberger, M. (2022). Predicting real world spatial disorientation in Alzheimer's disease patients using virtual reality navigation tests. *Scientific Reports*, 12(1), 13397. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-022-17634-w>
- Ragan, E. D., Bowman, D. A., Kopper, R., Stinson, C., Scerbo, S., & McMahan, R. P. (2015). Effects of field of view and visual complexity on virtual reality training effectiveness for a visual scanning task. *IEEE Transactions on Visualization and Computer Graphics*, 21(7), 794–807.
- Ranjbar Pouya, O., Byagowi, A., Kelly, D. M., & Moussavi, Z. (2017). Introducing a new age-and-cognition-sensitive measurement for assessing spatial orientation using a landmark-less virtual reality navigational task. *Quarterly Journal of Experimental Psychology*, 70(7), 1406–1419.
- Richardson, A. E., Montello, D. R., & Hegarty, M. (1999). Spatial knowledge acquisition from maps and from navigation in real and virtual environments. *Memory & Cognition*, 27(4), 741–750.
- Richardson, A. E., Powers, M. E., & Bousquet, L. G. (2011). Video game experience predicts virtual, but not real navigation performance. *Computers in Human Behavior*, 27(1), 552–560.
- Richter, K.-F. (2009). Adaptable path planning in regionalized environments. In K. S. Hornsby, C. Claramunt, M. Denis, & G. Ligozat (Eds.), *Spatial information theory* (pp. 453–470). Berlin, Heidelberg: Springer Berlin Heidelberg.
- Riecke, B. E., Bodenheimer, B., McNamara, T. P., Williams, B., Peng, P., & Feuereissen, D. (2010). Do we need to walk for effective virtual reality navigation? Physical rotations alone may suffice. In Hölscher, C., Shipley, T. F., Olivetti Belardinelli, M., Bateman, J. A., Newcombe, N. S. (Eds.), *Spatial Cognition VII* (pp. 234–247). Springer Berlin Heidelberg. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-642-14749-4_21
- Ritchie, K., Carrière, I., Howett, D., Su, L., Hornberger, M., O'Brien, J. T., Ritchie, C. W., & Chan, D. (2018). Allocentric and egocentric spatial processing in middle-aged adults at high risk of late-onset Alzheimer's disease: The PREVENT dementia study. *Journal of Alzheimer's Disease*, 65(3), 885–896. <https://doi.org/10.3233/JAD-180432>
- Rodgers, M. K., Sindone III, J. A., & Moffat, S. D. (2012). Effects of age on navigation strategy. *Neurobiology of Aging*, 33(1), 202.e215–202.e222.
- Ruddle, R. A., Payne, S. J., & Jones, D. M. (2014). Navigating large-scale virtual environments: What differences occur between helmet-mounted and desk-top displays? *Presence*, 8(2), 157–168.
- Ruddle, R. A., Volkova, E., & Bühlhoff, H. H. (2013). Learning to walk in virtual reality. *ACM Transactions on Applied Perception*, 10(2), 1–17. <https://doi.org/10.1145/2465780.2465785>
- Ruddle, R. A., Volkova, E., Mohler, B., & Bühlhoff, H. H. (2011). The effect of landmark and body-based sensory information on route knowledge. *Memory & Cognition*, 39(4), 686–699. <https://doi.org/10.3758/s13421-010-0054-z>
- Sánchez-Escudero, J. P., Galvis-Herrera, A., Sánchez-Trujillo, D., Torres-López, L. C., Kennedy, C. J., Aguirre-

- Acevedo, D., Garcia-Barrera, M., & Trujillo, N. (2024). Virtual reality and serious videogame-based instruments for assessing spatial navigation in alzheimer's disease: A systematic review of psychometric properties. *Neuropsychology Review*, 35(1), 77–101.
- Sanchez-Vives, M. V., & Slater, M. (2005). From presence to consciousness through virtual reality. *Nature Reviews. Neuroscience*, 6(4), 332–339. <https://doi.org/10.1038/nrn1651>
- Savino, G.-L., Emanuel, N., Kowalzik, S., Kroll, F., Lange, M. C., Laudan, M., ... Schmeißer, M. (2019). Comparing pedestrian navigation methods in virtual reality and real life. *2019 International Conference on Multimodal Interaction*. (pp.16–25). Suzhou, China
- Schäfer, S., Huxhold, O., & Lindenberger, U. (2006). Healthy mind in healthy body? A review of sensorimotor-cognitive interdependencies in old age. *European Review of Aging & Physical Activity*, 3(2), 45–54.
- Schellenbach, M., Lövdén, M., Verrel, J., Krüger, A., & Lindenberger, U. (2010). Adult age differences in familiarization to treadmill walking within virtual environments. *Gait & Posture*, 31(3), 295–299.
- Serino, S., Morganti, F., Colombo, D., & Riva, G. (2018). The contribution of allocentric impairments to the cognitive decline in Alzheimer's disease. *Lecture Notes of the Institute for Computer Sciences, Social-Informatics and Telecommunications Engineering, LNICST*, 253, 84–91. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-01093-5_11
- Serino, S., Morganti, F., Di Stefano, F., & Riva, G. (2015). Detecting early egocentric and allocentric impairments deficits in Alzheimer's disease: An experimental study with virtual reality. *Frontiers in Aging Neuroscience*, 7, 88. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fnagi.2015.00088>
- Shi, Y., Kang, J., Xia, P., Tyagi, O., Mehta, R. K., & Du, J. (2021). Spatial knowledge and firefighters' wayfinding performance: A virtual reality search and rescue experiment. *Safety Science*, 139, 105231. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ssci.2021.105231>
- Siegel, A. W., & White, S. H. (1975). The development of spatial representations of large-scale environments. *Advances in Child Development and Behavior*, 10, 9–55.
- Slone, E., Burles, F., & Iaria, G. (2016). Environmental layout complexity affects neural activity during navigation in humans. *European Journal of Neuroscience*, 43(9), 1146–1155. <https://doi.org/10.1111/ejn.13218>
- Sophia, R., & Carsten, F. (2024). Translating spatial navigation evaluation from experimental to clinical settings: The virtual environments navigation assessment (VIENNA). *Behavior Research Methods*, 56(3), 2033–2048.
- Sousa Santos, B., Dias, P., Pimentel, A., Baggerman, J., Ferreira, C., Silva, S., & Madeira, J. (2009). Head-mounted display versus desktop for 3D navigation in virtual reality: A user study. *Multimedia Tools and Applications*, 41(1), 161–181. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11042-008-0223-2>
- Spanlang, B., Normand, J.-M., Borland, D., Kiltner, K., Giannopoulos, E., Pomés, A. ... Slater, M. (2014). How to build an embodiment lab: Achieving body representation illusions in virtual reality. *Frontiers in Robotics and AI*, 1. <https://doi.org/10.3389/frobt.2014.00009>
- Spier, H. J., Coutrot, A., & Hornberger, M. (2023). Explaining world-wide variation in navigation ability from millions of people: Citizen science project Sea Hero Quest. *Topics in Cognitive Science*, 15(1), 120–138. <https://doi.org/10.1111/tops.12590>
- Stites, M. C., Matzen, L. E., & Gastelum, Z. N. (2020). Where are we going and where have we been? Examining the effects of maps on spatial learning in an indoor guided navigation task. *Cognitive Research: Principles and Implications*, 5(1), 13.
- Tarnanas, I., Laskaris, N., & Tsolaki, M. (2012). On the comparison of VR-responses, as performance measures in prospective memory, with auditory P300 responses in MCI detection. *Studies in Health Technology and Informatics*, 181, 156–161.
- Tarnanas, I., Papagiannopoulos, S., Kazis, D., Wiederhold, M., Widerhold, B., & Tsolaki, M. (2015). Reliability of a novel serious game using dual-task gait profiles to early characterize aMCI. *Frontiers in Aging Neuroscience*, 7, 50. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fnagi.2015.00050>
- Tarr, M. J., & Warren, W. H. (2002). Virtual reality in behavioral neuroscience and beyond. *Nature Neuroscience*, 5(Suppl 11), 1089–1092.
- Templeman, J. N., Denbrook, P. S., & Sibert, L. E. (1999). Virtual locomotion: Walking in place through virtual environments. *Presence Teleoperators & Virtual Environments*, 8(6), 598–617.
- Thornberry, C., Cimadevilla, J. M., & Commins, S. (2021). Virtual Morris water maze: Opportunities and challenges. *Reviews in the Neurosciences*, 32(8), 887–903.
- Thrash, T., Kapadia, M., Moussaid, M., Wilhelm, C., Helbing, D., & Sumner, R. W. (2015). Evaluation of control interfaces for desktop virtual environments. *Presence Teleoperators and Virtual Environments*, 24(4), 322–334.
- Uttal, D. H., McKee, K., Simms, N., Hegarty, M., & Newcombe, N. S. (2024). How can we best assess spatial skills? Practical and conceptual challenges. *Journal of Intelligence*, 12(1), 8.
- van der Ham, I. J. M., Claessen, M. H., G., Evers, A. W. M., & van der Kuil, M. N. A. (2020). Large-scale assessment of human navigation ability across the lifespan. *Scientific Reports*, 10(1), 3299.
- van der Ham, I. J. M., Faber, A. M. E., Venselaar, M., van Kreveld, M. J., & Löffler, M. (2015). Ecological validity of virtual environments to assess human navigation ability. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 6, 637. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2015.00637>
- Vass, L. K., Copara, M. S., Seyal, M., Shahlaie, K., Farias, S. T., Shen, P. Y., & Ekstrom, A. D. (2016). Oscillations go

- the distance: Low-frequency human hippocampal oscillations code spatial distance in the absence of sensory cues during teleportation. *Neuron*, 89(6), 1180–1186.
- Ventura, M., Shute, V., Wright, T., & Zhao, W. (2013). An investigation of the validity of the virtual spatial navigation assessment. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 4, 852–852. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2013.00852>
- Warren, W. H., Rothman, D. B., Schnapp, B. H., & Ericson, J. D. (2017). Wormholes in virtual space: From cognitive maps to cognitive graphs. *Cognition*, 166, 152–163. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cognition.2017.05.020>
- Weisberg, S. M., & Newcombe, N. S. (2016). How do (some) people make a cognitive map? Routes, places, and working memory. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Learning, Memory, and Cognition*, 42(5), 768–785.
- Weisberg, S. M., Schinazi, V. R., Newcombe, N. S., Shipley, T. F., & Epstein, R. A. (2014). Variations in cognitive maps: Understanding individual differences in navigation. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Learning, Memory, and Cognition*, 40(3), 669–682.
- Wiener, J. M., Carroll, D., Moeller, S., Bibi, I., Ivanova, D., Allen, P., & Wolbers, T. (2020). A novel virtual-reality-based route-learning test suite: Assessing the effects of cognitive aging on navigation. *Behavior Research Methods*, 52(2), 630–640. <https://doi.org/10.3758/s13428-019-01264-8>
- Wolbers, T., & Hegarty, M. (2010). What determines our navigational abilities? *Trends in Cognitive Sciences*, 14(3), 138–146.
- Xie, Y., Bigelow, R. T., Frankenthaler, S. F., Studenski, S. A., Moffat, S. D., & Agrawal, Y. (2017). Vestibular loss in older adults is associated with impaired spatial navigation: Data from the triangle completion task. *Frontiers in Neurology*, 8, 173.
- Yang, Q., & Kalantari, S. (2024). Real-time continuous perceived uncertainty annotation for spatial navigation studies in buildings. *Journal of Building Engineering*, 82, 108250.
- Yesiltepe, D., Fernández Velasco, P., Coutrot, A., Ozbil Torun, A., Wiener, J. M., Holscher, C., ... Spiers, H. J. (2023). Entropy and a sub-group of geometric measures of paths predict the navigability of an environment. *Cognition*, 236, 105443–105443. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cognition.2023.105443>
- Zen, D., Byagowi, A., Garcia, M., Kelly, D., Lithgow, B., & Moussavi, Z. (2013). The perceived orientation in people with and without Alzheimer's. In *2013 6th International IEEE/EMBS Conference on Neural Engineering (NER)* (pp. 460–463). IEEE. <https://doi.org/10.1109/ner.2013.6695971>

The design of virtual reality tests for spatial navigation ability

CHEN Yan, TIAN Xuetao, LUO Fang

(Faculty of Psychology, Beijing Normal University, Beijing 100875, China)

Abstract: Spatial navigation is a critical cognitive ability that ensures the effective functioning of individuals in their daily work and life. With the continuous advancement of Virtual Reality (VR) technology, its compatibility with spatial navigation research has become increasingly prominent. Under current technological conditions, there are still notable differences in spatial perception and behavioral performance between VR and real world. Researchers should constantly verify and update their research results in the new technological environment. When designing spatial navigation tests based on VR, it is essential to first comprehensively consider the fidelity of the equipment and the familiarity and usage experience of the participants with the equipment to select appropriate display devices and movement technologies. Secondly, a thorough understanding of the design logic of spatial navigation measurement paradigms, which usually includes two stages: “learning” and “testing”, and ensure the scientificity of the task design in each stage. Thirdly, when designing scenarios and tasks, environmental factors that affect spatial navigation performance should be manipulated in a targeted manner, and the difficulty of the test should be reasonably controlled. Given the complexity of VR assessment tools, researchers should evaluate and control the quality of these tools across multiple dimensions.

Keywords: spatial navigation, virtual reality, simulation-based assessment