CHI 2018
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Pervasive Human Computer Interaction
Department of Computer Science and Technology
Tsinghua University

VirtualGrasp: Leveraging Experience of Interacting with Physical Objects to Facilitate Digital Object Retrieval

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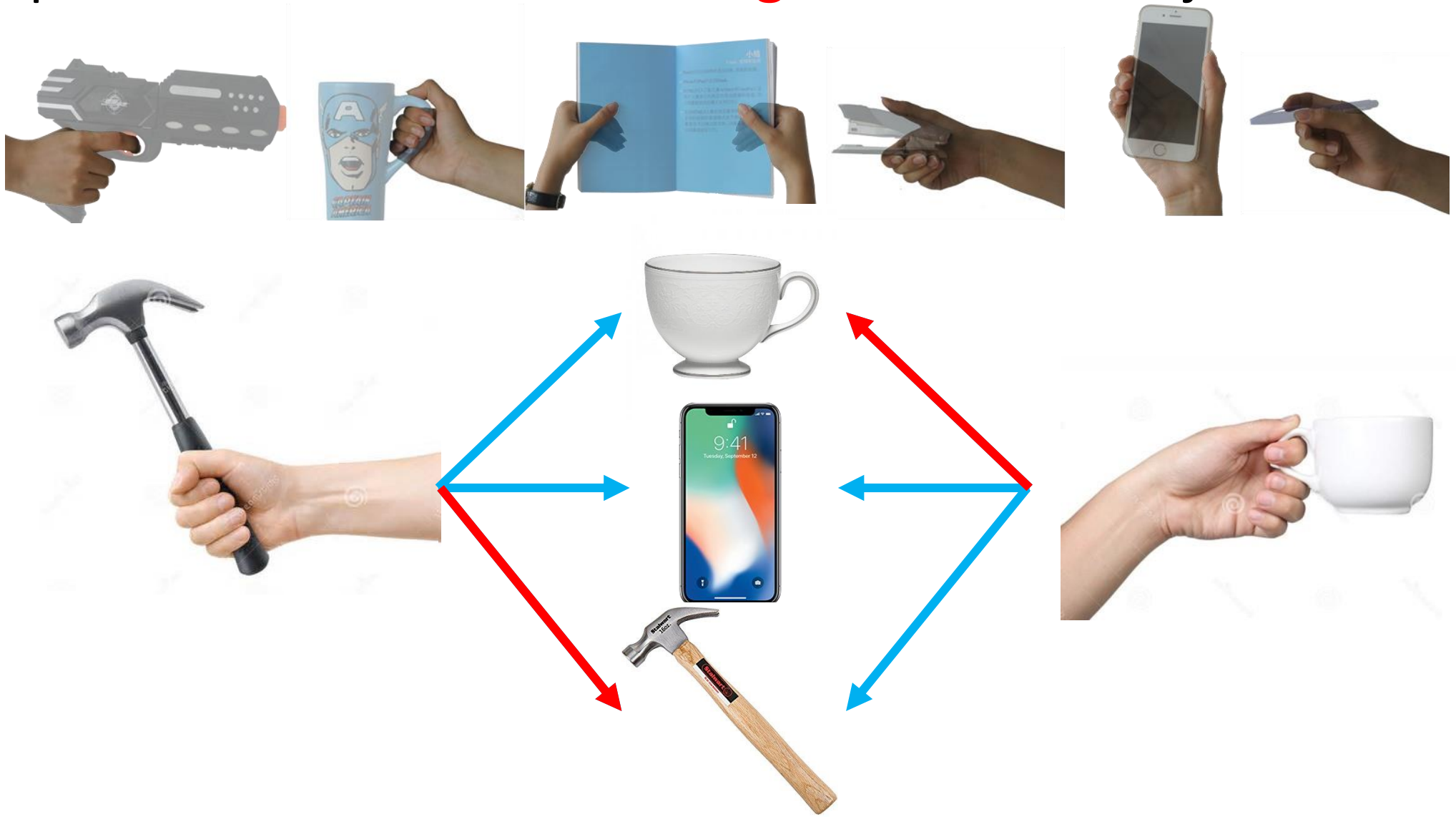
Thor's Hammer

To retrieve a **Virtual** object in VR, users perform the gesture of **Grasping** it in physical world.

Users perform **Swipe** gesture to select among the objects,
and **Dwell** to confirm

MOTIVATION

To provide a set of **Self-Revealing Gestures** for object retrieval



MOTIVATION

To provide a set of **Self-Revealing Gestures** for object retrieval

1. Will users **consistently** perform the same grasping gesture for each object?

2. Can the grasping gestures of objects be **distinguished** by algorithms?

Gesture Interaction

Advantages

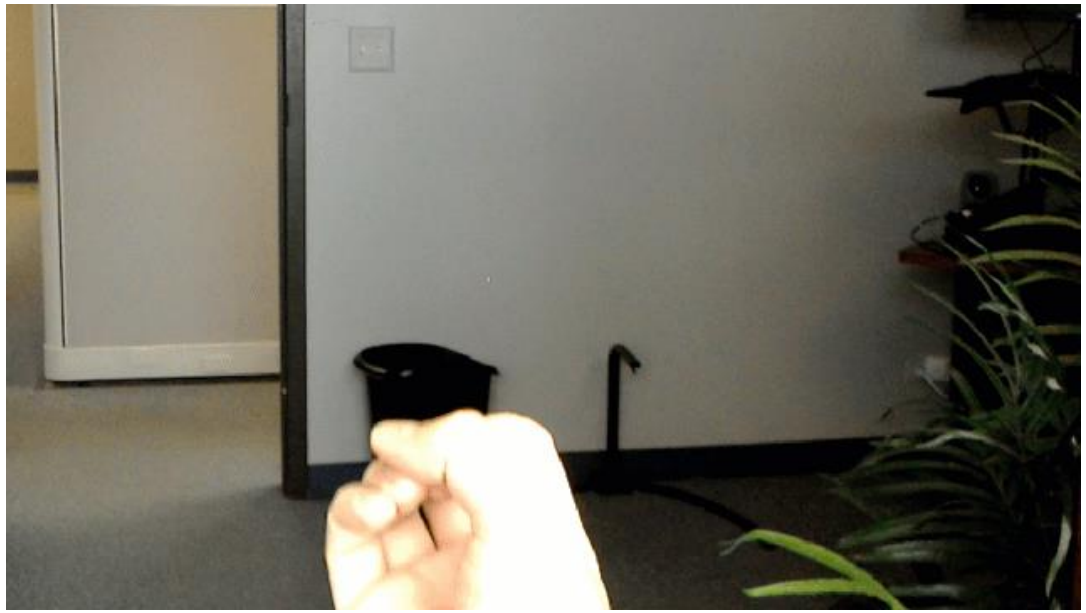
- Intuitive
- Direct Interaction
- Semantic Meaning
- Eyes-Free Interaction

Disadvantages

- **Non Self-Revealing**
- Fatigue
- Fuzzy Input

Gesture Interaction

Hard to Discover

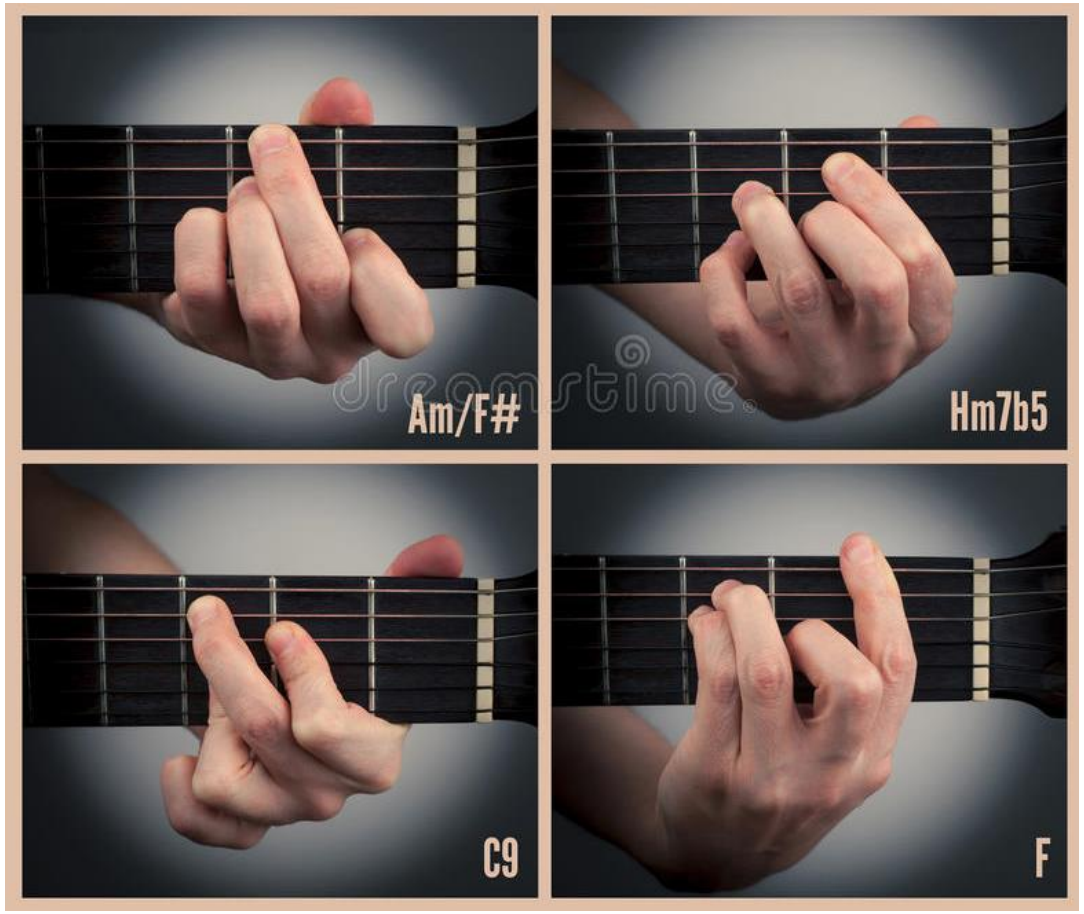


Bloom gesture to open the menu

Draw circle to open the camera

Gesture Interaction

Hard to Learn



Gesture Interaction

Hard to Remember

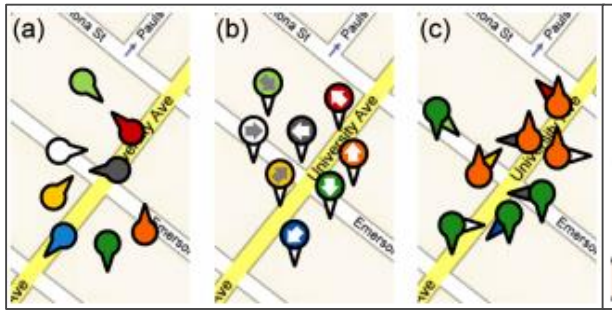
Gesture Interaction

Mappings from Targets to Gestures

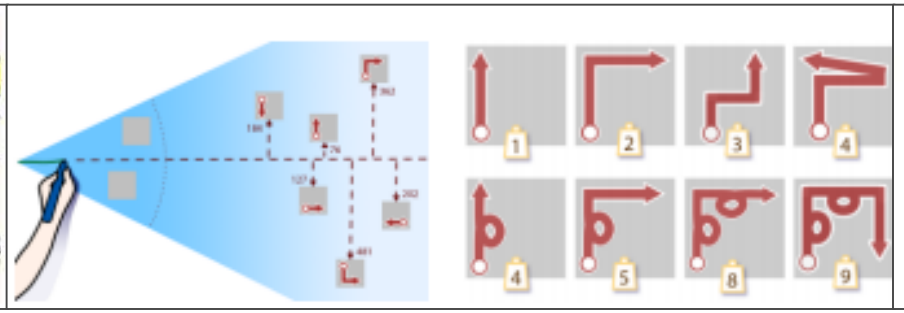
- Simple and easy to understand
- Consistent with acquired experience
- Consensus across different users

Approaches for Mapping Problems

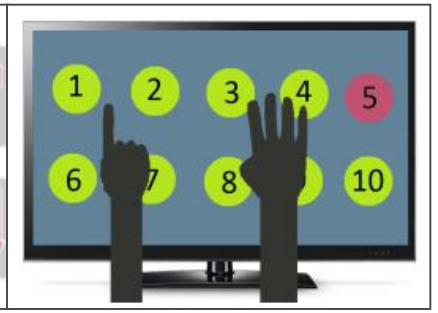
Look-and-Feel Design of the Targets



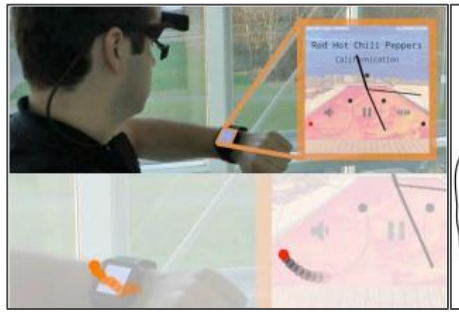
Yatani et al. CHI 08



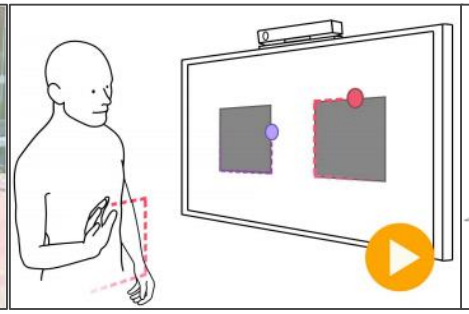
Bragdon et al. CHI 11



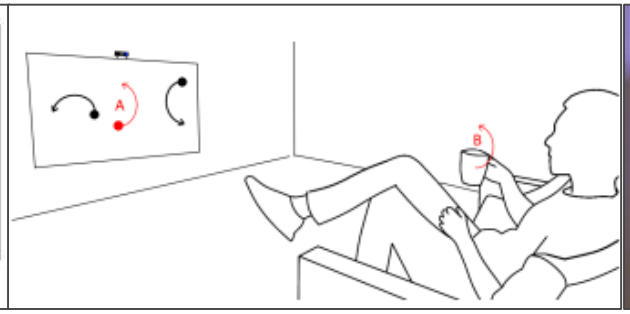
Wagner et al. CHI 14



Esteves et al. UIST 15



Carter et al. CHI 16



Clarke et al. UIST 17

Esteves et al. UIST 17

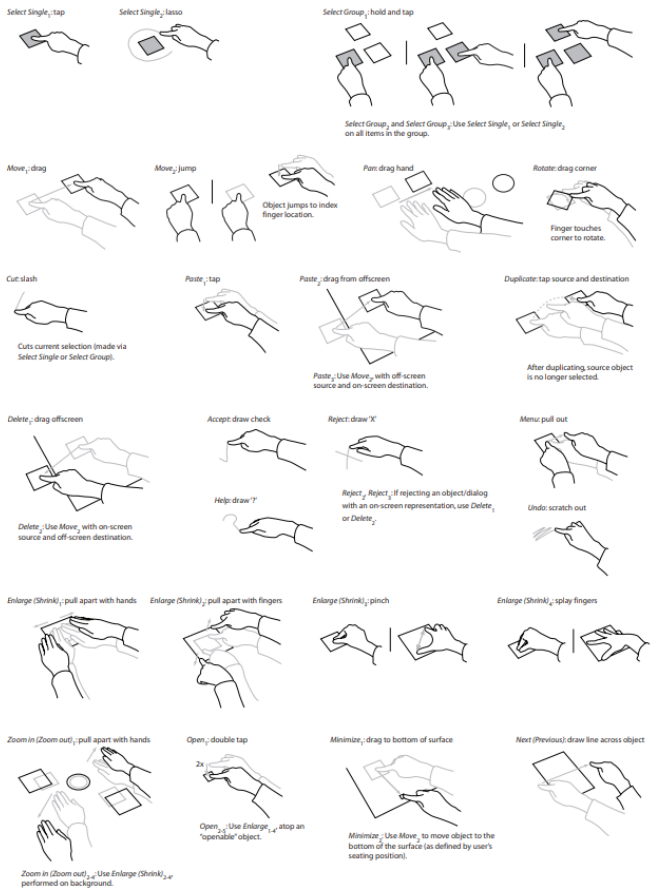
Gesture Interaction

Mapping from Targets to Gestures

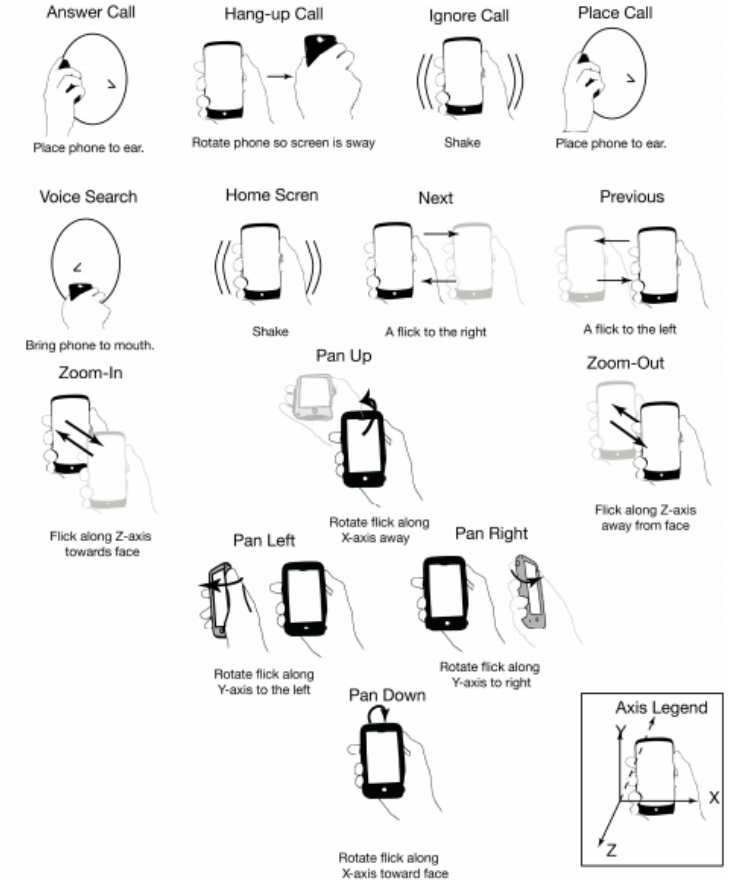
- Simple and easy to understand
- Consistent with acquired experience
- Consensus across different users

Approaches for Mapping Problems

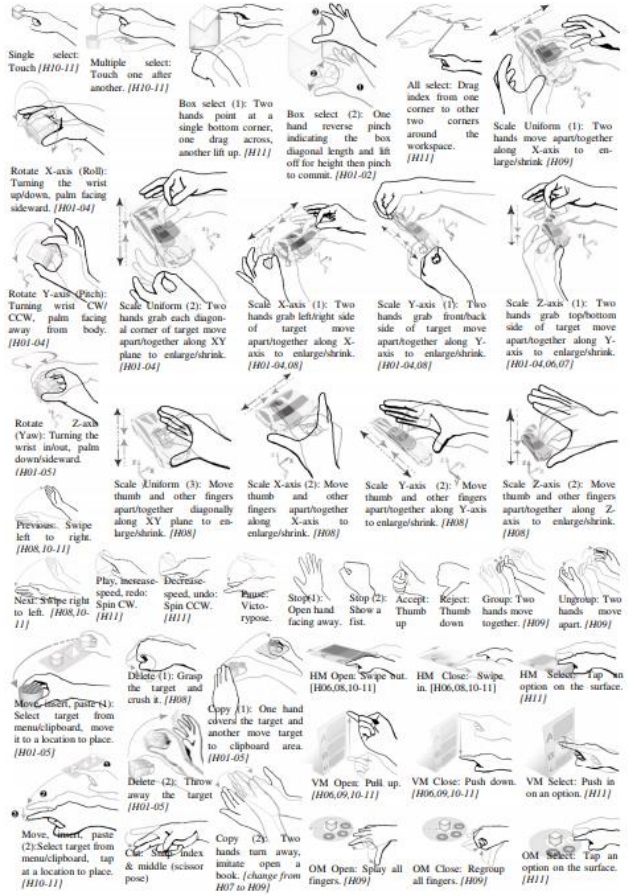
User Defined Gestures (Participatory Design)



Wobbrock et al. CHI 09



Ruiz et al. CHI 11



Piumsomboon et al. INTERACT 13

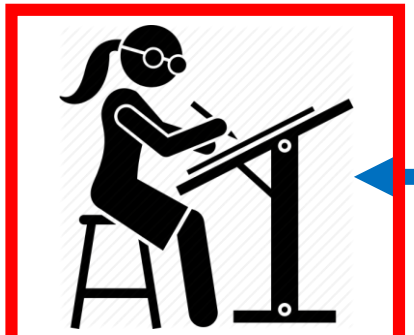
Gesture Interaction

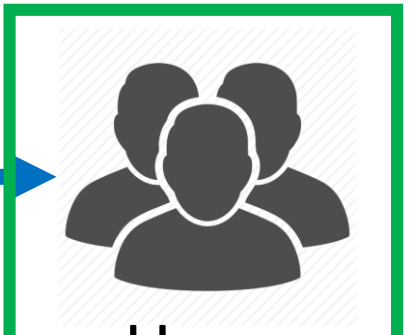
Mapping from Targets to Gestures

- Simple and easy to understand → **One Simple Metaphor**
- Consistent with acquired experience
- Consensus across different users

Nature	*symbolic*	Gesture visually depicts a symbol.
	physical	Gesture acts physically on objects.
	metaphorical	Gesture indicates a metaphor.
	abstract	Gesture-referent mapping is arbitrary.

Trade-Off between Mapping and Recognition





Current Gestures
- ✓ Robust to Recognize
- ✓ No Conflicts within the Set
- ✗ Non Self-Revealing to Users

Balanced Gestures
- ✓ Self-Revealing to Users
- ✓ Consistent across Users
- ✓ Robust to Recognize
- ✓ Large Vocabulary

User Defined Gestures
- ✓ Intuitive to Users
- ✓ Consistent across Users
- ✗ No Concerns of Recognition

RESEARCH QUESTION

Object Retrieval with **VirtualGrasp**

1. **Consistency**: Can users achieve high agreement on the mappings between the objects and their grasping gestures?

2. **Recognition:** Can grasping gestures of different objects be correctly distinguished by algorithms?

3. **Self-Revealing:** Can users discover the object-gesture mappings themselves? If not, can they learn and remember them easily?

OUTLINE

- User Study: Gesture Elicitation -> **Consistency**
- Experiment: Gesture Recognition -> **Recognition**
- User Study: Object Retrieval -> **Self-Revealing**
- Summary
- Discussion

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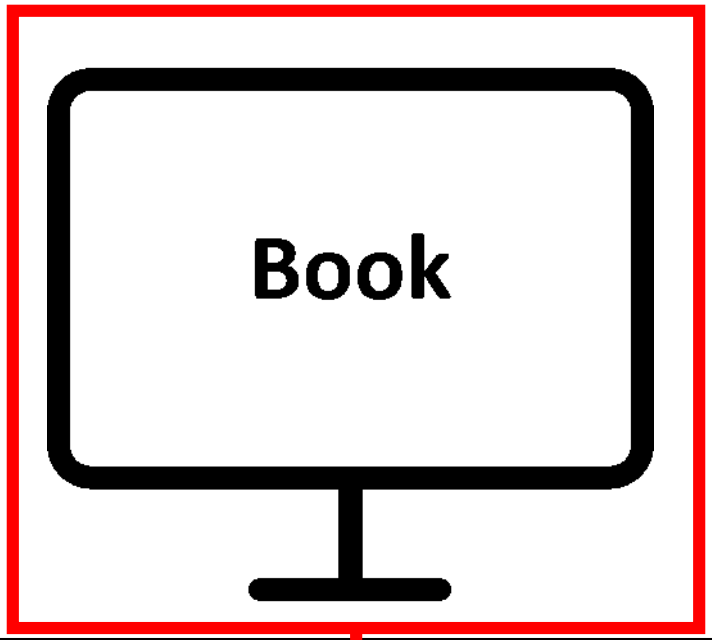
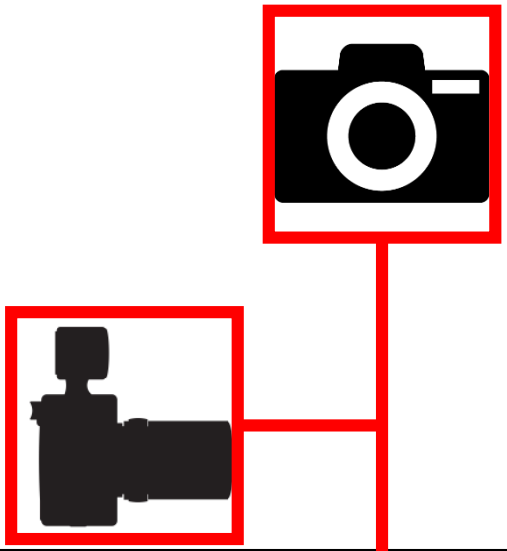
USER STUDY: Gesture Elicitation





Names of **49** different objects were shown on the front screen.

Two cameras recorded the gestures from the front and the side view.

We recruited 20 participants (14M/6F) to perform the grasping gestures for each object.

USER STUDY: Gesture Elicitation

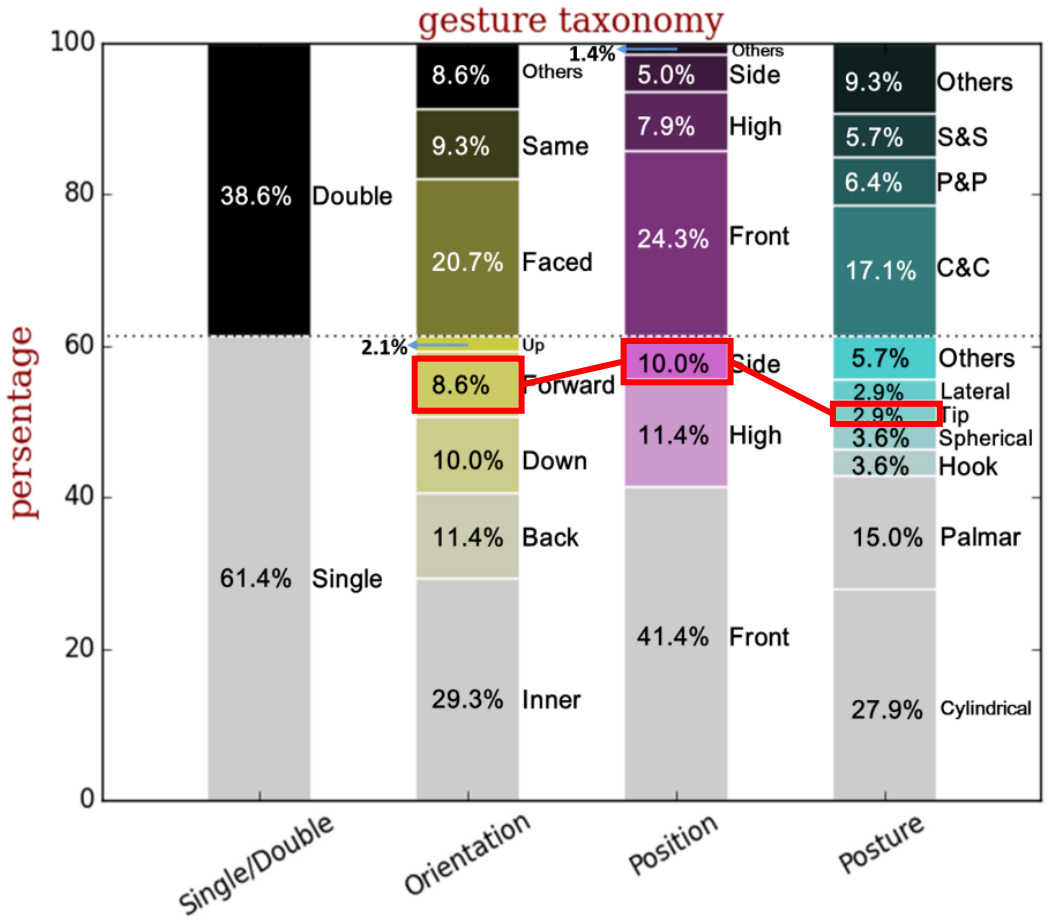
Object Set (49 Objects)

USER STUDY: Gesture Elicitation

- **Consensus across Users**
  - $20 \times 49 = 980$ gestures, 140 gesture-object pairs.
  - 18/49 objects mapped to one unique gesture
  - 49/49 objects mapped to no more than five gestures
  - Agreement Score: AVG = 0.68, SD = 0.27
- **Key Properties of Objects**
  - Shapes:41.3/49 Usages: 40.8/49 Sizes: 29.8/49

USER STUDY: Gesture Elicitation

- **Breakdown and Distribution of the Gestures**
  - The taxonomy: "Single/Double Hands", "Hand Position", "Palm Orientation" and "Hand Shape“.
  - One-to-one V.S. N-to-one mapping.
  - Infrequent gestures to be leveraged.



USER STUDY: Gesture Elicitation

Discussion

- Half Open-Ended Elicitation Study
  - The power of the metaphor: high consistency across users.
  - The using experience of the objects are required (39/980).

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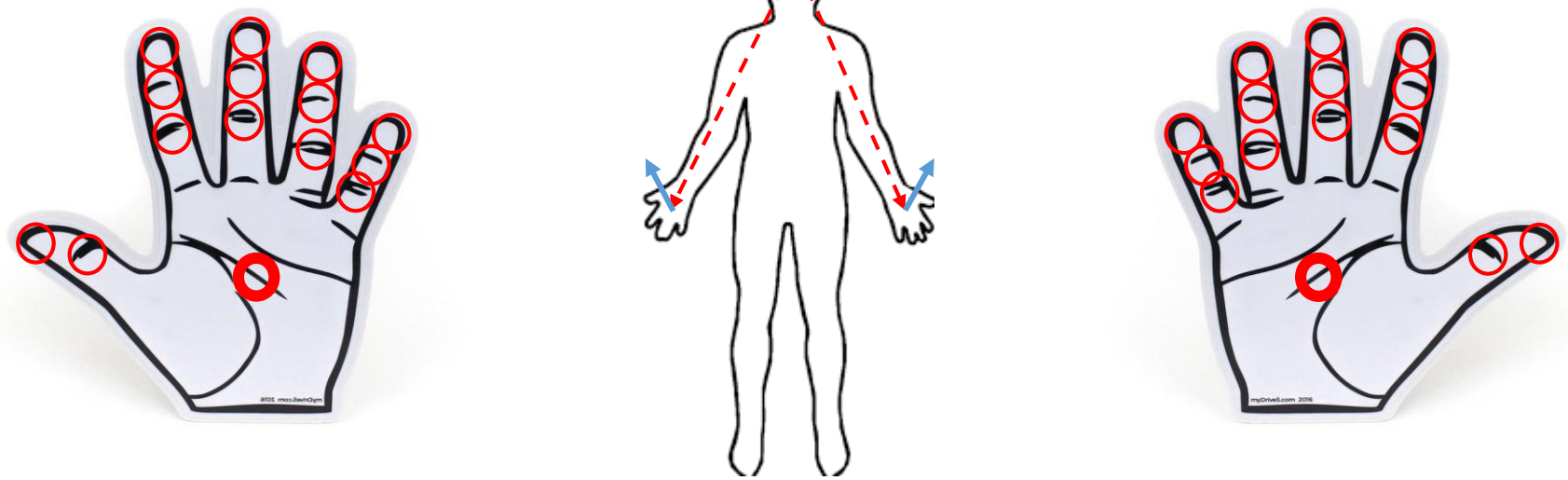
EXPERIMENT: Gesture Recognition

- **Participants**
  - **12** participants, with an average of 24.3 (SD = 1.5). Four of them had experience of mid air gesture interaction. All were familiar with touchscreen gesture interaction.
- **Apparatus**
  - Perception Neuron, which was a MEMS (Micro-Electro-Mechanical System) based tracking device, with a resolution of **0.02** degrees.

The sensors that participants put on

EXPERIMENT: Gesture Recognition

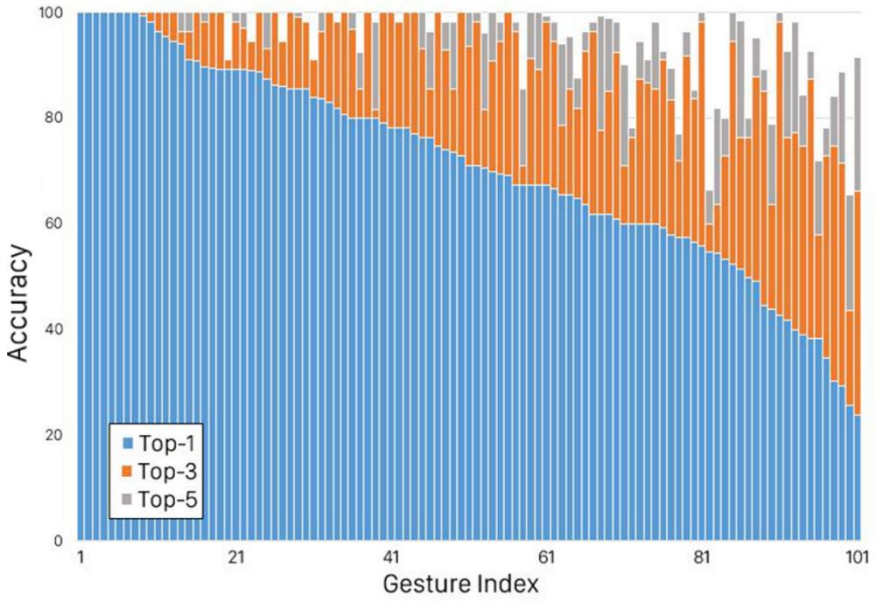
- **Data Collection**
  - The positions and orientations of the hand palms relative to the head.
  - The positions of the 14 joints relative to the hand palms.
  - 40 frames for each gesture that participants performed.
  - $2\ hands \times 16\ vectors \times 3\ values = 96\ values\ per\ frame$
  - $12\ participants \times 101\ gestures \times 2\ rounds \times 40\ frames = 96960\ frames$



EXPERIMENT: Gesture Recognition

- **Leave-Two-Out Validation**
  - Data of two participants as test set and the left as training set. ($C_{12}^{2} = 66\ rounds$)
  - Top-N accuracy: N most possible objects contain the target. (Top-1, Top-3, Top-5)
  - Average accuracy:

	Top-1	Top-3	Top-5
Mean	70.96%	89.65%	95.05%
SD	9.25%	6.39%	4.56%



Too small objects

EXPERIMENT: Gesture Recognition

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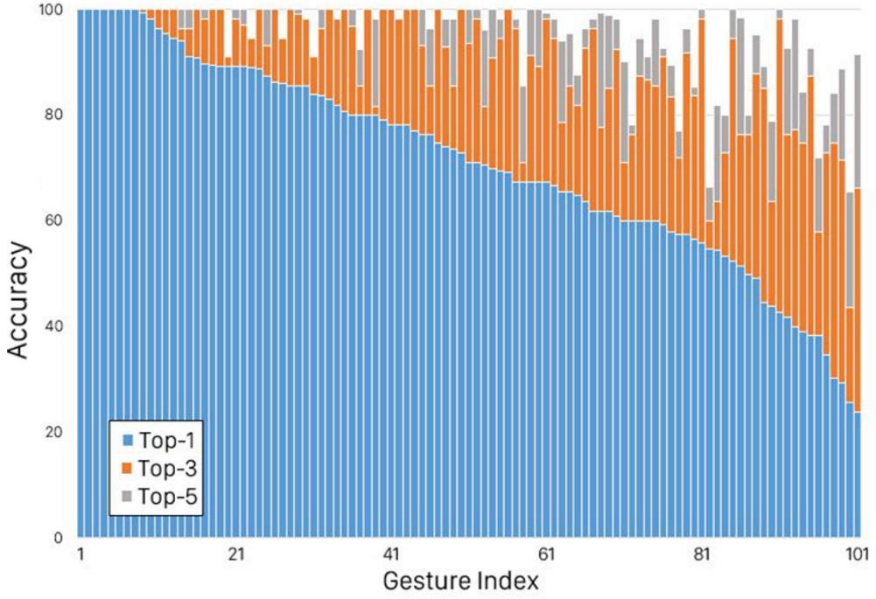

Strong connection to usages

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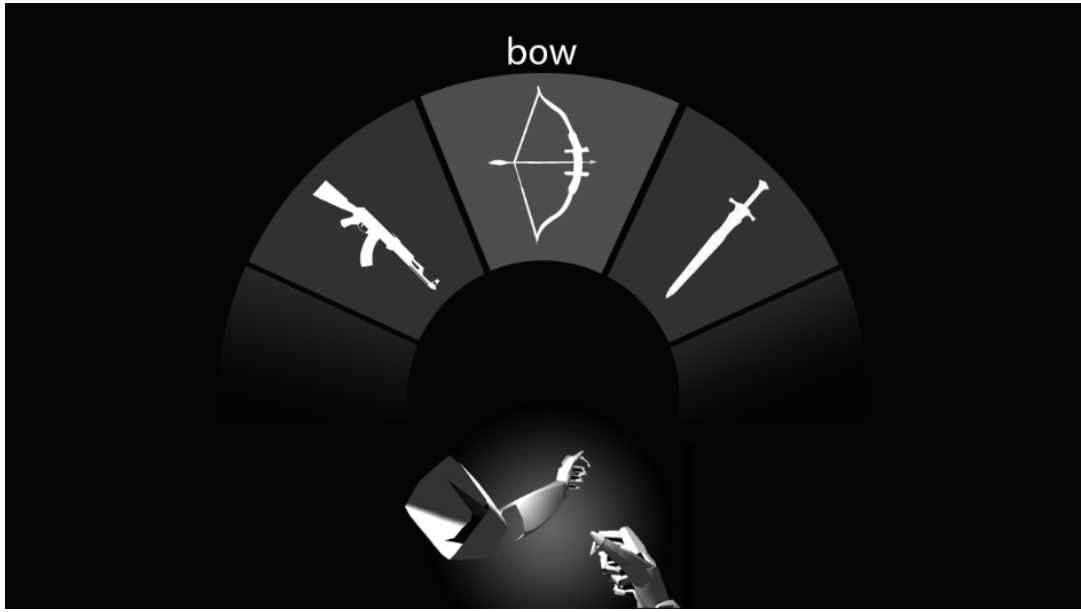
USER STUDY: Object Retrieval

- **Participants**
  - 12 new participants, who never participated in STUDY1 or STUDY2.
- **Apparatus**
  - We showed the name of the target object on the top, visualized the current gesture of the participants, and showed the recognition result of top three possible objects in the center.



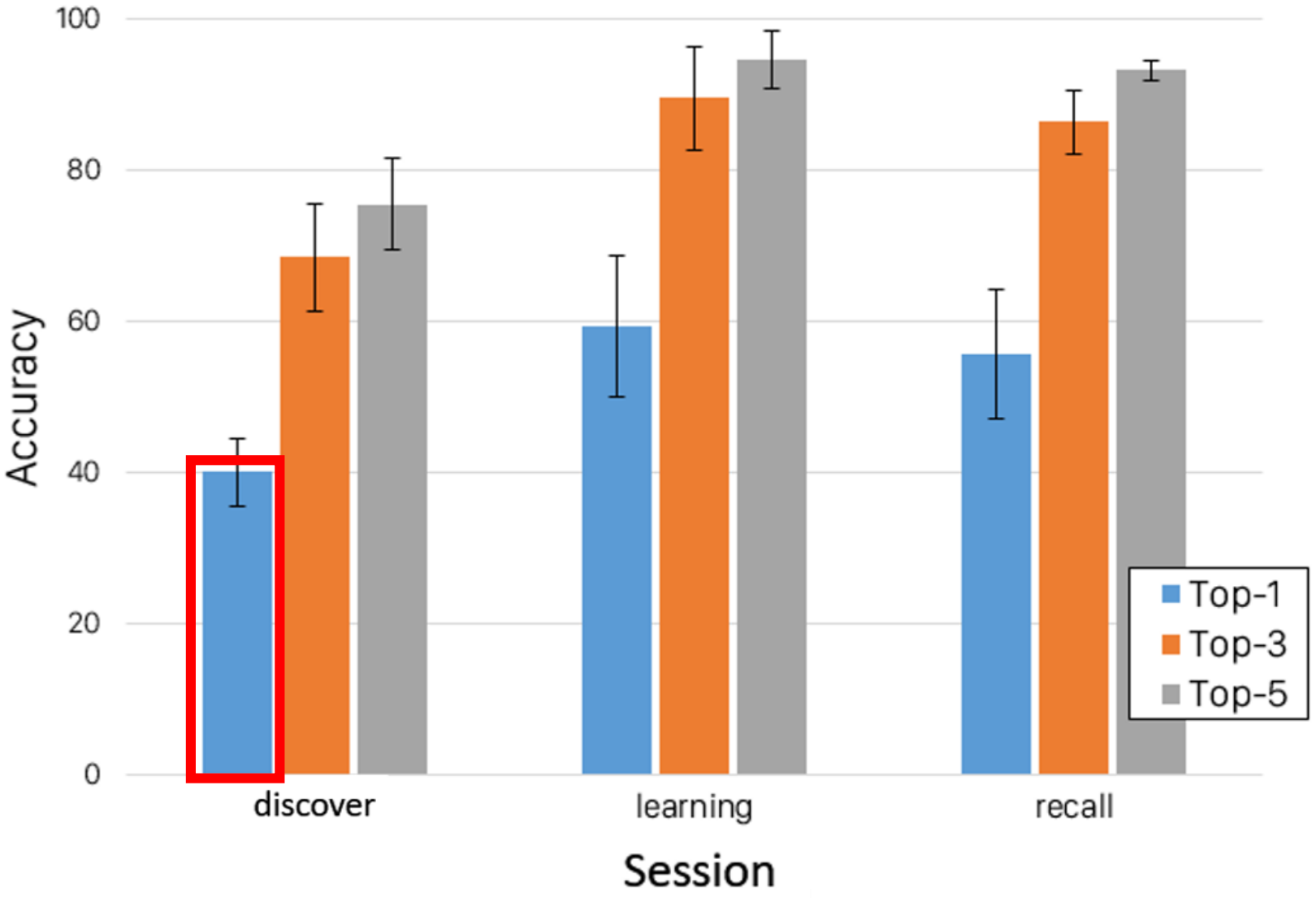
User Interface

USER STUDY: Object Retrieval

- **Discovery Session**
  - ***Without learning*** the gesture-object mappings in the system, we asked participants to perform their own grasping gestures.
- **Learning Session**
  - Before test, we let participants learn the standard gestures. They were free to ***practice*** the gestures until they confirm to be ready.
- **Recall Session**
  - ***A week later***, participants came back to lab and perform 49 object retrieval tasks again. During the week, they were not exposed to the standard gestures again.

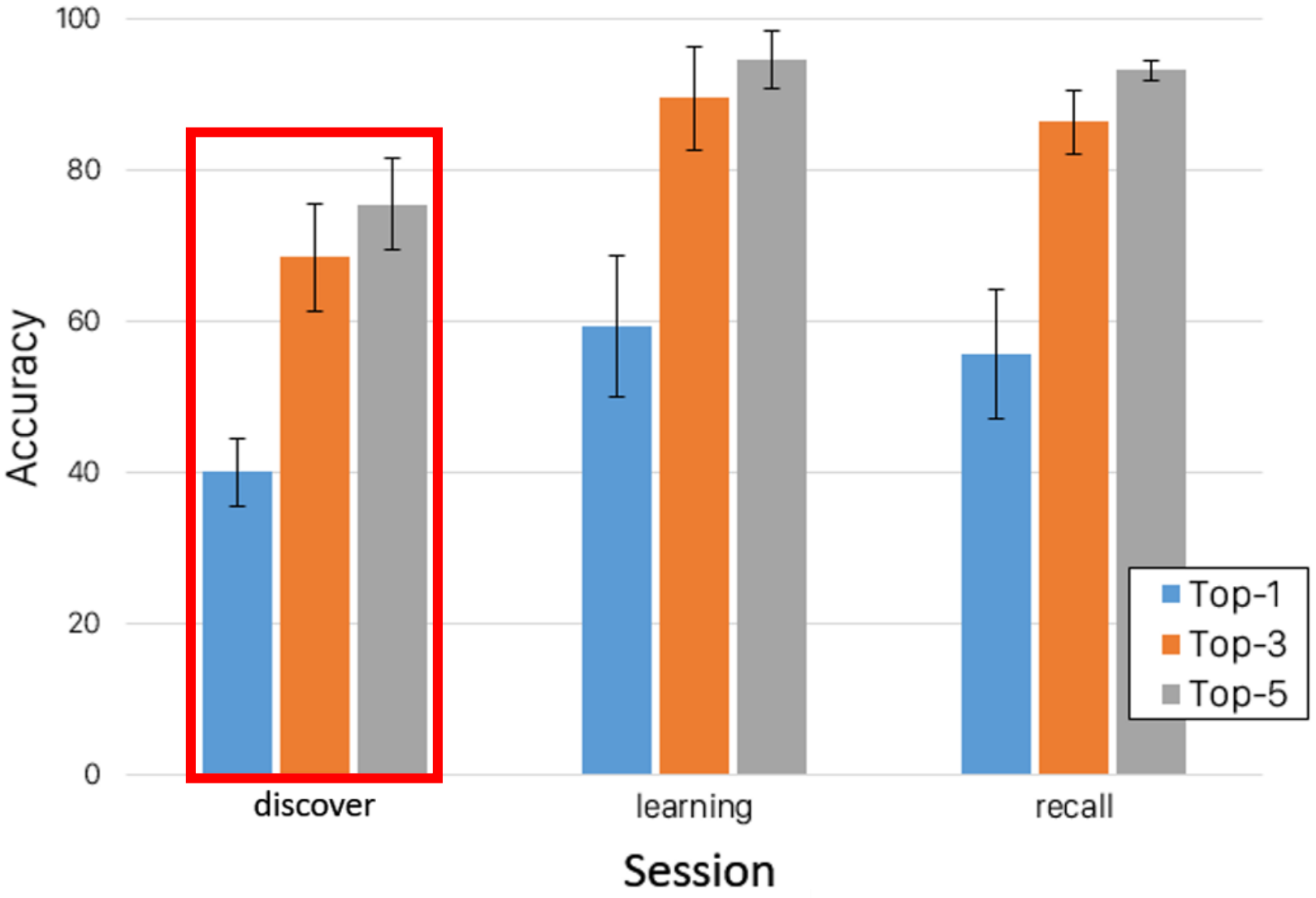
STUDY3: Object Retrieval

40% of the gestures were triggered without training

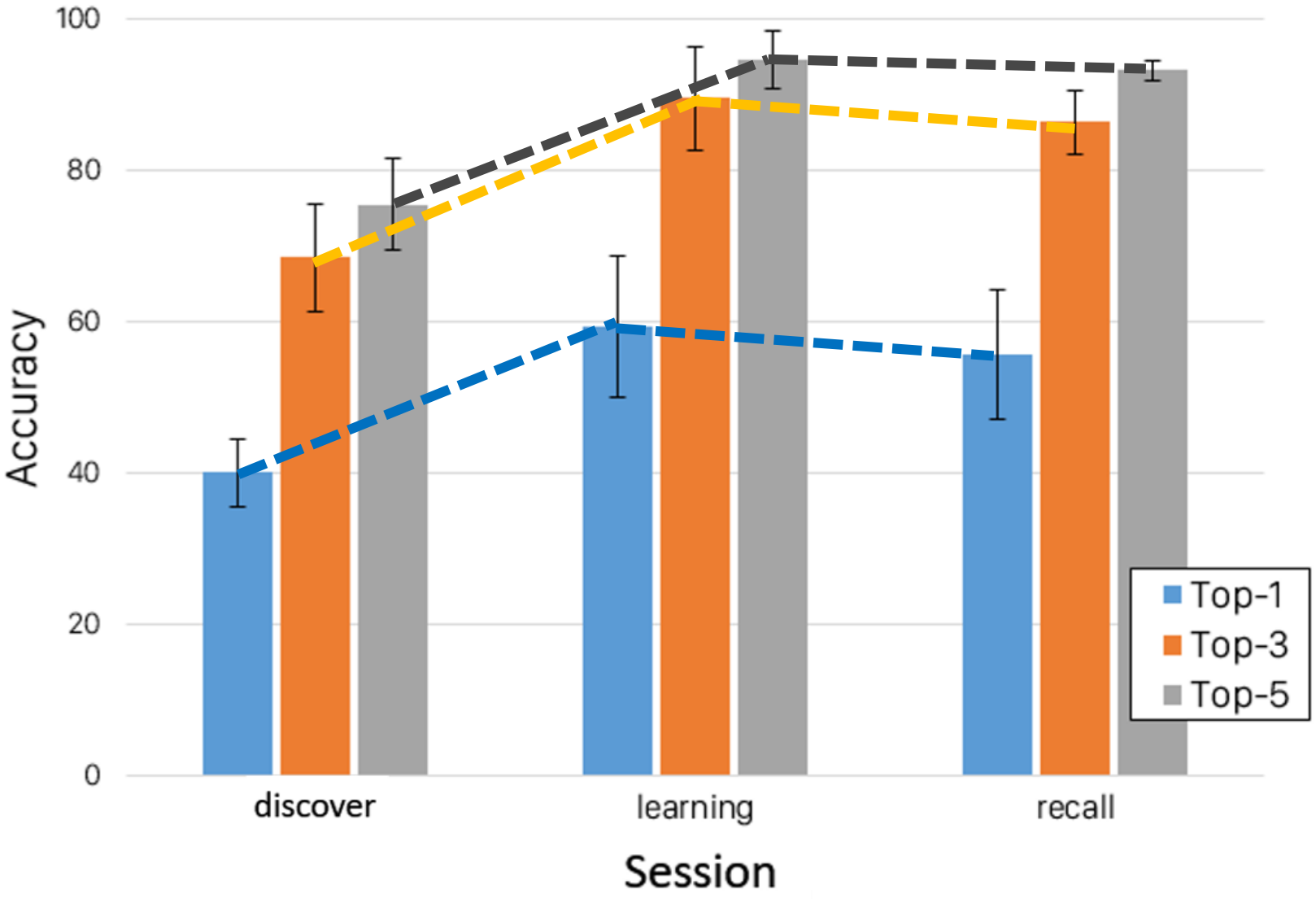


STUDY3: Object Retrieval

76% of the objects were successfully retrieved



STUDY3: Object Retrieval



STUDY3: Object Retrieval

- **Discoverability**: Without any training, participants could discover **40%** of the exact mappings by themselves, and could directly use VirtualGrasp to retrieve **76%** of the objects with top five candidates.

- **Memorability**: A week after the learning session, participants could still recall the mappings well, and could successfully retrieve **93%** of the objects with top five candidates.

STUDY3: Object Retrieval

Subjective Feedback

- **The system is intelligent**
- *"Two different gestures came to me for grasping the camera and it was intelligent that the system correctly recognized the one I performed." [P4]*
- **The gestures make sense**
- *"I never used a grenade before, but I agreed with Gesture 3 which was grasping it over the shoulder to throw it.“ [P6]*
- **New tricks under the concept**
- *“For 'Stapler', I chose to perform the gesture of pressing it instead of holding it, because few other objects require pressing." [P8]*

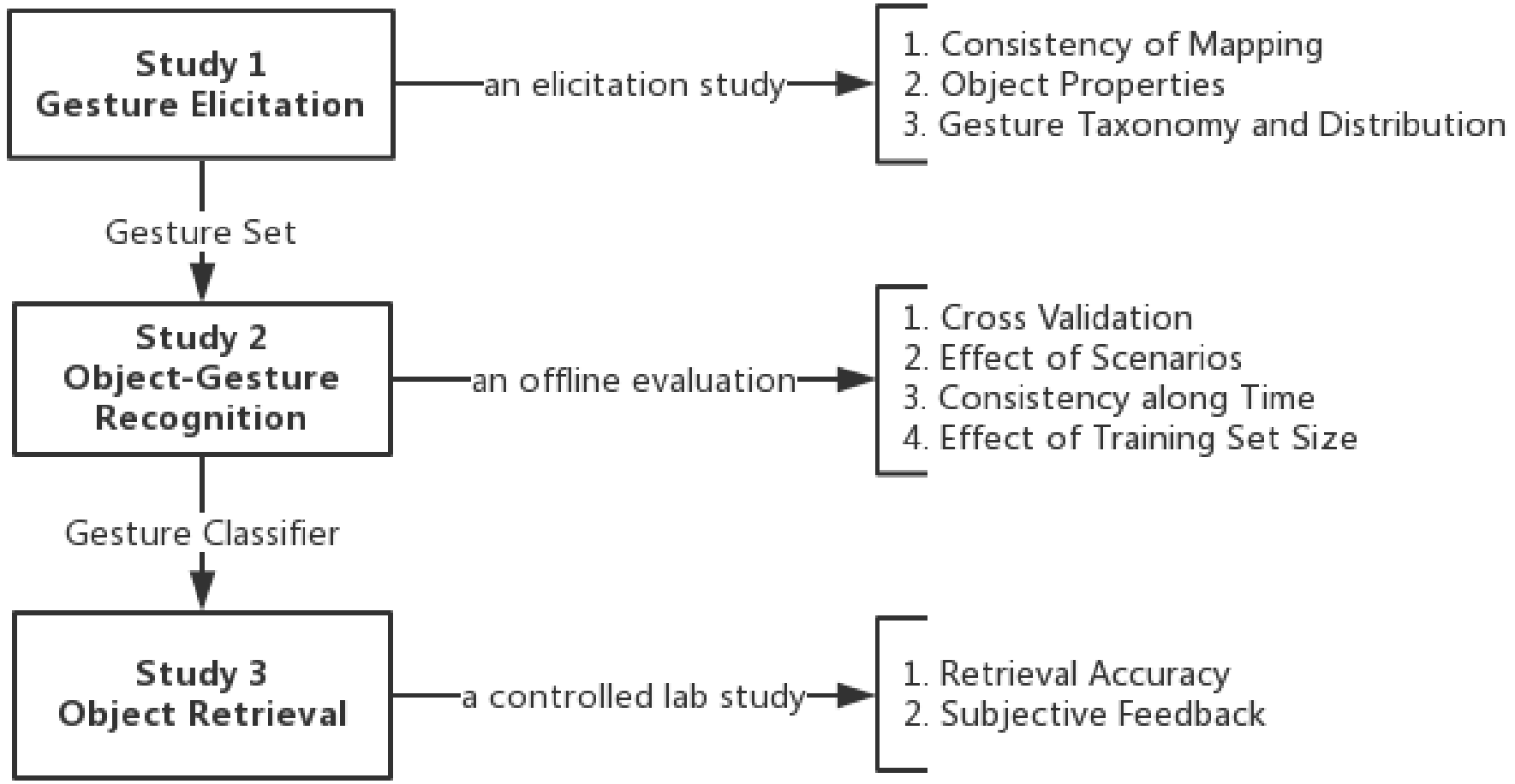
5-Point Scale	Discoverability	Fatigue	Memorability	Fun
Mean	4.2	4.4	4.5	4.4
SD	0.78	0.70	0.53	0.52

SUMMARY

High Consistency

Good Accuracy

Little Effort



DISCUSSION

- **Object-Gesture Mappings**
  - Objects with different property values.
    - Not from objects of the same type.

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  - Grasping gestures reflect different properties of objects.
    - Difficult to distinguish grasping gestures of too small objects.

DISCUSSION

- **Object-Gesture Mappings**
  - Objects with different property values.
    - Not from objects of the same type.
  - Grasping gestures reflect different properties of objects.
    - Difficult to distinguish grasping gestures of too small objects.
- **Sensing Technique**
  - Hand gesture, hand position and hand orientation.
    - Vision-based sensing techniques.
  - Hand gesture.
    - Data gloves, EMG sensors, Vision-based.
  - Hand position and hand orientation.
    - VR controllers.


Thanks