GRADUATION REPORT

Martijn Verbeij (studentnr. 4150015) **Chair:** dr. Doris Aschenbrenner MSc. Design for Interaction **Mentor:** dr. Zoltán Rusák

EXPLORATIVE STUDY FOR APPLICATION OF **SPATIAL AUGMENTED REALITY ON** FACTORY AUTOMATED GROUND VEHICLES

The document at hand is the final report of a graduation assignment at the faculty of Industrial Design Engineering at the Delft University of Technology by Martijn Verbeij. The graduation assignment is performed in cooperation with the Smart Factory department of Magna Steyr, located in Graz, Austria, and is under the supervision of dr. Doris Aschenbrenner as chair of the graduation committee and dr. Zoltán Rusák as mentor.

Executive summary

Context & Problem

The development of human industry can be divided into separate 'revolutions'. The first one brought mechanical innovation, the second introduced electrical power into the factory, while the third revolved around the use of computers and automation. We are now at the brink of a 4th industrial revolution: improving factories by applying smart sensors, artificial intelligence, and other emerging technologies. One of these emerging technologies are called AGVs: Autonomous Ground Vehicles. these are fully automated driverless vehicles that can transport goods and machinery. The newest generation AGVs moves efficiently and flexibly without guiding rails or fixed paths.

All of these extra ingredients are causing the factory to become more complex and less transparent in the face of high demands for safety and efficiency. Humans and their robotic colleagues are in dire need of enhanced methods for information exchange. Augmented Reality (AR) is an excellent tool to provide this exchange because of its inert ability to curate visual information and untangle complexity. The goal is to improve situation awareness and safety in the factory.

Analysis

The Magna Steyr factory in Graz was visited so to better understand the context. Literature research provided the necessary insights into the state of the art of the smart factory and AGVs as well as the human factors involved.

Design & iteration

To work towards the design of a solution an explorative approach was first adopted by matching different AR methodologies to different roles within the factory. This created a matrix of possible solutions. The following idea was selected: to place a projector on top of the AGV to provide visual cues to the factory worker by projecting the spatial intention of the robot directly on the factory floor. An iterative approach was now adopted to develop a solution that could be mounted on top of an AGV.

Validation

In order to validate the presumed positive effect of placing spatial cues in front of the AGV, a between-groups study was conducted. Because of COVID-19 restrictions, physical lab research was not possible. Instead, a questionnaire research was devised in which a test group and a control group were shown videos of an AGV approaching the participant. The test group videos included projected arrows while the control group videos included no indication of the direction the AGV would take. Multiple realistic scenarios were tested to measure the response of the participants. Apart from the response of the participants, the experienced task load and situation awareness were also measured.

Results & conclusion

It was concluded that the projection of arrows in front of an AGV improves the perceived safety of workers as well as their assessment of the robot's future actions. Participants that were shown the projected arrows had a far greater chance of executing the desired response toward the robot. Improvement with regards to the situation awareness was measured in some, but not all scenarios. Additional research and design opportunities are identified and presented in chapters 12 and 13.

This project proposes a framework for future AR projects in the smart factory environment and also provides insights into the merits of using (spatial) augmented reality to facilitate communication between robots and people in the smart factory context. It shows that the use of Spatial Augmented Reality can make factories safer and more efficient, paving the way for more industries to adopt AGV systems and take the next step toward the factory 4.0 paradigm.

Introduction

Automated Ground Vehicles (AGVs) are autonomously functioning vehicles often used in factory context for transport and logistics. The new generation of AGVs will not just follow static guides but will be versatile, flexibly adapting to a more and more dynamic factory environment. The dialogue between machine and men needs to be properly facilitated, otherwise the AGVs are perceived as unpredictable by human factory workers, decreasing the trust and value of the AGVs contribution to the manufacturing process.

Additionally, supervisors run the risk of losing the overview of the swarm of AGVs. The supervisory operator is currently using desktop applications to read out the sensor data from vehicles and associated hardware. Multiple screens are used to display information. The information should provide insight into the current, past, and future actions of the AGV's, which is plentiful and complex.

Augmented Reality (AR) technologies allow for the mediation of visual information. It can supplement, emphasize, and contextualize information that is already visually present. This provides a good opportunity to untangle the complexity for both the factory floor worker and the supervisory operator. Within this project, special attention is given to the opportunities of Spatial Augmented Reality (SAR). SAR aims to create augmented layers of information utilizing only hardware that is external to the user. This methodology offers many advantages in terms of ergonomics and cooperative use.

The goal of the assignment is defined as:

This project will identify (Spatial) Augmented Reality solutions, that are suited to facilitate the interaction with AGVs (automated ground vehicles) in a smart factory setting. The focus is to identify problems experienced by factory supervisors such as information overload or lack of oversight and to design an AR user interface solution, that will increase situation awareness.

In a broader perspective lessons from this project may be applied to other Cyber-Physical Systems (CPS) that wish to apply AR solutions to improve situation awareness.

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Chapter 1

Analysis plan

1.1. Structure of the Analysis part

The analysis part of this report is quite extensive. Hopefully, this short chapter can explain the structure and help you find what you are looking for.

This chapter, chapter 1, outlines the analysis plan of the project; it defines a scope and the resources required for the analysis. Chapter 2 outlines the stakeholders and their position within the project. In chapter 3 the fundamentals of the relevant fields of research are provided. Chapter 4 describes the contextual inquiry that was performed to understand the current industry state and the challenges the client is facing. Chapter 5 combines the information found in chapters 2, 3, and 4 to go deeper into the relevant research fields and show the status of the industry.

In chapter 6 we reflect on the insights that were found and derive requirements for further specification of the project scope. The three variable factors (Industry state, application context and technological framework) are used to create a three-dimensional chart (This is further explained in chapter 1.2, 'Scope'). Every combination of these three factors leads to a 'solution space'. A solution space consists of a problem (defined by the industry state and application context) and a solution (technological framework). If a technological framework can be used to solve the problem, then the solution space is fertile for AR-based innovations and can be further investigated. Finally, a solution space is selected based on the requirements in chapter 7.

Image 1: A diagram showing the progression of information in the analysis part of this report.

1.2. Scope

The project scope consists of two sets of factors. First, we define a fixed set of factors which have been defined from the beginning, and secondly, a variable set of three key factors that are defined based on the outcome of the analysis research. Let's discuss the variable factors first.

Image 2: The scope consists of fixed factors (set from the beginning) and variable factors (to be decided on in the analysis part of this report).

Variable factors

The scope of the project is defined by three key factors:

1. **The industry state.** How 'advanced' is the factory? It describes how far technological advancements such as AR, AI and AGV automation are integrated into the manufacturing process. 2. **The application context.** Where in the factory do we apply the solution? Who is experiencing the problem? This is a specific context of use in which it is suspected that use cases for Augmented Reality solutions can be found.

3. **The technological framework.** What kind of Augmented Reality are we applying? There are different approaches to achieving Augmented Reality, which are defined by their technological means.

Industry state

Three industry states are defined: current, intermediate and future. The current state describes the current situation in the Magna factory. The intermediate state is presumed reachable within 10 years and the future state is presumed reachable within 20 years. The measure of the integration of factory 4.0 technologies greatly influences the type of AR innovations that would be suitable for the factory. The industry states are illustrated in chapter 4.3. It is important to realize that the industry state as it is discussed in this report concerns the Magna factory specifically. If the same is to be applied to other companies or other industries an analysis is needed to divide the progression of that factory in a meaningful manner.

Application context

Four application contexts were selected. They will be researched to obtain a generic overview of the processes and functions that are fulfilled within that context. All contexts contain human-robot interactions. A more elaborate description of the four application cases can be found in chapter 4.4.

Technological framework

Four different approaches to creating augmented reality are distinguished. see chapter 5.4.

Apart from these three key factors, the direction of the project is influenced by the stakeholders (see chapter 2).

A specific industry state and application context will need to be selected to create a proper, narrow scope for the project. The technological frameworks will be selected based on the combination of industry state and application context.

Fixed Factors

The following scope-defining factors were set when the assignment was written

Augmented Reality: the project will involve the application of augmented reality to solve the problems encountered.

Human-to-Machine and Machine-to-Human visual communication: Within the complex system of an automotive factory many types of communication take place. This project focuses on the visual communication between humans and machines. Other senses may be included such as auditory or tactile communication. This is briefly touched upon in chapter 12, design opportunities.

Automated Ground Vehicles: the project works toward improving the interaction with AGVs and not with other machinery or robots.

Situation awareness: The goal of the project is to provide a means to improve situation awareness within the chosen application context.

1.3. Research Questions

The questions formulated here are not research questions in the traditional sense but are used to quide the analysis phase.

Image 3: The three areas of academic research and the topics they contain.

Web research

- What are definitions for SAR / AR / MR / AGVs / Swarm robotics / Situation Awareness?
- What is currently possible and impossible with the technologies mentioned above and what will soon be possible?
- What are the current applications of AR in a (smart) factory context or within a comparable context?

Contextual inquiry

- How is the work process structured regarding control of the AGVs?
- How far are Industry 4.0 developments integrated into the current Magna manufacturing sets and what are the plans for integrating more in the future?
- What hardware and software are being used in the application contexts?
- Which problems occur in the process of controlling the AGVs?
- What is the distribution of responsibilities regarding the AGVs?
- How is situation awareness regarding AGVs obtained in the current context of use?
- What type of tasks are currently given to AGVs and what tasks does the client envision for them in the future?
- What problems occur at all levels of interaction with the AGVs?
- Basic information about Magna as a company including their future vision and mission.

Academic research

- What are the current possibilities and limitations of AR through HMDs or other technological means?
- What are the human factors relevant for human-to-AGV interaction? how are they measured? how are they improved?
- How do you measure and improve situation awareness?
- What else is published regarding projected AR and Spatial AR? (explorative research)

Chapter 2

Stakeholders

The stakeholder map as seen in image 4 divides all involved parties in three 'circles of influence'.

This model puts more emphasis on the amount of influence stakeholders have on the direction of the project than a traditional stakeholder map, which shows all parties affected by the outcome of the project and how they will potentially be affected.

The Stakeholder map is divided into three 'rings': *defining, influencing*, and '*potentially benefiting'*. People and entities within the inner ring are *defining* for the direction of the project, this is the graduate student and his graduation team exclusively.

The middle ring (*influencing*) are all in contact with the graduation team and can directly influence the direction by contributing resources and feedback. the most important of these is the client, Magna. All others are part of the CoCoAs project consortium. The outer ring consists of institutions that can *potentially benefit* from developments within the project. Their preferences and activities may be considered when making design decisions, but they do not directly influence the direction of the project.

Image 4: the Stakeholder map is divided in three 'rings' indicating different amounts of influence on the project.

Chapter 3

Fundamentals

The assignment goal is defined as follows:

This project will identify (Spatial) Augmented Reality solutions, that are suited to facilitate the interaction with AGVs (Automated Ground Vehicle) in a smart factory setting. The focus is to identify problems experienced by factory supervisors such as information overload or lack of oversight and to design an AR user interface solution, that will increase situation awareness.

Specific terms used in this description require a common shared definition and background information. The purpose of this chapter is to provide that.

3.1 Industry 4.0 and the smart factory

In literature, the development of human industry is often divided by pointing at distinct 'revolutions'. [1] [2][3]. The first industrial revolution was started at the end of the 18th century and saw the emergence of the mechanization of industrial processes. The second industrial revolution was driven by the availability of electricity as well as the optimization of factory processes using the organizational models of innovators like Ford and Taylor. The third industrial revolution is considered to have started with the widespread use of electronic components during the 1970s. This allowed for automation within the factory walls. Although these developments are often referred to as 'revolutions', in reality the process contains gradual change spread out over the duration of multiple decades.

These days many people believe we are at the start of a fourth industrial revolution. The term 'Industry 4.0' originated from a governmental high-tech strategy started by Germany in 2011 [4]. These days the term is used everywhere in the industrial landscape when talking about the integration of emerging technologies into the manufacturing process.

According to Wang & Wan [5], the industry 4.0 entails horizontal integration through value networks, vertical integration and networked manufacturing systems, and end-to-end digital integration of engineering across the entire value chain. To this end 'industry 4.0' is an often-used term when talking about the integration of modern IT solutions in the manufacturing field including but not limited to: Internet of Things, artificial intelligence, and Augmented and Virtual Reality. This interpretation will be chosen for this report.

Industry 4.0 is first and foremost a vision for an industrial company. Not only may this vision differ strongly from company to company, but the steps toward it as well. It can be stated that a shared aspect is the purpose of improving the manufactured value, safety, and efficiency of the factory.

Many futuristic visions published by companies include a strong focus on flexible and versatile transport automation [6][7]. The versatile use of AGVs in the factory context allows for high-level automation and facilitates the integration of other process innovations.

Internet of Things & the Digital Twin

Wang et al. describe four distinguishing characteristics for Industry 4.0: high interconnection, dynamic reconfiguration, mass data, and deep integration [1]. The 'high interconnection' and 'mass data' are well illustrated by the 'Internet of Things' (IoT). Within the industrial context, IoT refers to a trend in which more and more objects are being incorporated as part of the factory network. This means elements are outfitted with the sensors and connectivity to report local data to a centralized system. This is creating a strong upward trend for the sensor density in factories.

When the entire physical state of a factory can be accessed, we can speak of a 'Digital Twin' of the factory. This information about the real world can be used to benefit a variety of factory processes, for example by creating information-rich augmentation layers and overlay them more efficiently to create effective augmented reality.

Image 5: an example of a digital factory by Siemens [8]*. AGV locations, assembly lines states, and the positioning of every robot arm are included.*

The higher density of sensors also allows hardware to report more accurately and in a more centralized manner on its state. When this information is processed in large quantities accurate predictions can be made about the state of the hardware and they may receive maintenance before malfunctions occur. This is referenced to as 'predictive maintenance'.

Cobotics

Another step toward higher levels of automation is the concept of 'cobots', a contraction of 'cooperation' and 'robotics' [9]. Many application efforts are currently focused on creating safe coexistence between robots and humans. In the current industrial context, humans and robots are often already working alongside each other but tasks are usually divided between them. In the immediate future robots and humans will interact in a shared work process (collaboration)[10]. In the past, some tasks could exclusively be done by humans because of the subtleties of the required motion or the required short feedback loop. Thanks to the dynamic between human and cobot we can start to 'teach' these tasks to robots. Because of the short feedback loop and connectivity with other robots (motions and error margins can be shared instantly with robots performing the same task), higher efficiency can be achieved.

It is important to remember that all these developments and more are unfolding simultaneously. Most companies will attempt to apply a selection of them to their production chain and during the integration of such technologies, they will influence each other as well. The most successful businesses will be the ones that succeed at selecting the most relevant technologies and successfully integrate them into their existing manufacturing process.

One development that belongs in this list are Automated Ground Vehicles (AGV's) because this is specifically a focus of this project, we will discuss them in greater detail here.

3.2 Automated Ground Vehicles

For this project we will use the following definition: *An AGV is a term encompassing all driving transport systems that are capable of functioning without driver operation.* [11]

In the discourse surrounding AGVs, the first two letters of the acronym are contested. The 'A' meaning either 'Automated' or 'Autonomous' and the G meaning either 'Guided' or 'Ground'. Although there is a discussion to be had about the different meanings of these words, the result is that 4 terms are used that are almost always referencing the same phenomenon. Within the context of this project AGV will mean: 'Automated Ground Vehicle'. 'Autonomous' is rejected because it can be argued that a machine is not autonomous if centrally controlled, like most AGVs. The term 'Guided' is rejected because it might suggest the AGVs are guided by external physical elements such as painted or magnetic lines. Early AGV systems functioned in this way but as we will discuss later this is no longer the case for the vehicles considered for this project.

Especially in the area of supply and disposal in storage and production areas (both of which are present in an automotive manufacturing plant), AGVs have been found to reduce the damage to inventory, make production scheduling more flexible, and reduce staffing needs [12]. Thanks in part to this, the AGV market is growing fast. Bloomberg estimates the current AGV market to be worth 2 billion dollar (2019) and expects it to achieve a value of 2.9 billion dollar by 2024 [13].

Image 6: AGVs exist in many shapes and sizes and are designed for a broad variety of applications. (top left: Automated pallet truck by Jungheinrich, top right: Ridgeback by Clearpath Robotics, bottom left: WEASEL by SSI Schaefer, bottom right: KATE by Götting KG).

Currently, the most often occurring use for AGVs in the factory context is to have them function as autonomous forklifts. Moving pallets within the workplace. In the context of the Magna factory, most of this transport is currently done by human-operated forklifts that are eligible to be replaced by AGVs. Currently, AGVs in the Magna factories are used for short transport tasks such as transporting a car-seat from one side of an assembly line to the other.

Image 7: An illustration showing an AGV transport car seats to the other side of the assembly line. This strategy was chosen because the alternative was to build an elaborate and costly transport-line over the main assembly line.

There is a great variety between different AGV systems, which for example differ in their mode of localization and navigation. The systems governing the AGVs differ in the way that they schedule the AGVs and in the amount of autonomy the system has compared to the amount of control exerted by human operators. Image 8 gives an overview of these different aspects and how they relate to each other. They are further discussed in the following paragraphs.

Image 8: Mapping is the creation of a shared map that can be used by the AGVs. Localization is determining where on the map the AGV is and which way it is oriented. Navigation is the AGVs ability to use the map to move to a different location. The central processor provides scheduling by giving the AGV their tasks. This continuous process is supervised and influenced by the process planner who exerts supervisory control to supplement the autonomy of the system.

Localization

Localization is the AGVs ability to define its physical position within the working area. Older 'guided' AGV systems provide magnetic or painted lines for the AGVs to follow. The vehicle might follow the line until the goal position is reached, requiring no localization. Another method is the use of QR codes placed in fixed positions in the working area. The codes (sometimes called AR-tags) are read and interpreted by cameras mounted on the AGV [14]. Localization can also be achieved the other way around, by placing AR tags on the AGVs and using cameras that cover the entire workplace area [15]. Sometimes multiple methods may be applied to achieve a higher accuracy of the localization. Because AGVs often use an industrial WIFI connection for data transfer, WIFI can be used as a supplemental localization technique [16]. The current industry standard for localization is the 'SLAM technique' which takes care of the localization as well as the mapping and is covered in the next paragraph.

Image 9: An AGV system that uses painted navigation lines. Source: Movexx.com.

Image 10: AGV system using AR-tags for localization. image is taken from [14]*.*

Mapping

The SLAM-technique (Simultaneous Localization and Mapping) creates a shared real-time approximation of the factory floor that is used to plan the routes for all AGVs [17]. A commonly used hardware for this application is a LIDAR sensor. These emit laser light in a 360-degree field around the sensor. The light is reflected by the surrounding objects and registered by the LIDAR sensor upon return. Using the angle of incidence and the time the light has traveled the sensor can approximate the location of the surface the beam was reflected from. By combining thousands of these measurements in a map the entire surrounding environment can be mapped in real-time.

Image 11: Example of a LIDAR sensor in action. the sensor in the head rotates to capture measurements in all directions. Image is taken from [18]*.*

Image 12: Thousands of SLAM measurements together form a map. For AGVs a 2D map is sufficient but a 3d map is also possible. The map contains both static points (such as walls and permanent obstructions) as well as temporary points such as humans or other AGVs. Image adapted from [19]*.*

All AGVs contribute to the shared map and use it for localization and navigation. Every scan of an object improves the accuracy of the map. This method however does pose a 'chicken and egg' problem because the method of localization is dependent on the map and the method of mapping is dependent on localization (the position and orientation of the AGV). Multiple mathematical approaches exist for dealing with this problem, but analysis of this lies beyond the scope of this project. It is enough to know these methods exist and have been proved to create dynamic multirobot systems that are accurate enough for industrial applications.

Additional information provided to the system can help make the SLAM problem easier to solve (such as pre-existing maps and secondary localization techniques like WIFI localization).

Planning and Scheduling

Once the AGVs have a map and know where on this map they are positioned they can be given tasks to perform.

Rigorous research has been done to mathematically define optimal paths and schedules for AGVs [20]. Current path planners are typically used to determine paths that minimize time or length, which does usually not include the social desirability of the path as a factor [21]. Machine learning may be applied to optimize for social desirability of the path without harming the production process. Considering the isolated environment of a factory, employees may be trained to give AGVs priority over their own movement.

AGV scheduling can even go further and let AGVs function as a swarm that actively works together to meet production goals. AGVs could be coupled together to achieve tasks that would not be possible with a single machine. Another example of advanced planning is to have the AGV schedule replace a faulty or low-battery AGV with another unoccupied AGV before downtime occurs, effectively increasing the redundancy and reliability of the system.

Navigation

When AGVs are tasked with going from A to B and are given the path they should ride to reach their destination we can talk about AGV navigation.

A simple model AGV will simply follow magnetic or painted lines on the floor for the AGV to follow. An AGV would simply follow this line until it reaches its destination (indicated in a similar way by

using magnetics or visuals cues on the floor) unless an unexpected object would enter the safety area surveyed by the AGV his sensors, in which case the AGV would make an emergency stop.

Image 13: AGVs typically define separate spatial zones around and in front of the machine. Behavioral consequences are tied to the occurrence of objects being measured in these zones. The first zone, for example, may prompt the AGV to slow down while zones closer to the AGV trigger an emergency stop. The zones are often programmed to scale up with the speed of the AGV. Image adapted from [22]*.*

However, it is far more efficient if an AGV can avoid obstacles and adapt its route accordingly. When demands for the versatility of production processes grow fixed-path AGVs are no longer an optimal solution for warehouses and factories [23]. 'Natural' navigation methods (AGV systems in which the AGVs perceive the world in a similar fashion as humans do [24]) are becoming more mainstream in the AGV market. A SLAM driven AGV system is an excellent example of this.

Supervisory control & autonomy

Industrial contexts such as an automotive manufacturing plant use 'supervisory control' to control individual processes and control loops within the environment. Sheridan defines supervisory control as follows: "supervisory control means that one or more human operators are intermittently programming and continually receiving information from a computer that itself closes an autonomous control loop through artificial effectors to the controlled process or task environment." [25]. Within this definition, there is still a spectrum of possibilities ranging from complete control of the human over the system or complete autonomy held by the machine. For defining the position on that spectrum Sheridan developed a 10-level scale as indicated in image 14.

Image 14: Sheridan's model for defining levels of autonomy. ranging from 1 (total control by the human supervisor) to 10 (total autonomy of the computer). Image adapted from [26]*.*

As the development toward industry 4.0 progresses it is expected that the supervisory control will move toward the higher end of Sheridan's scale because the growing complexity is too much for human operators to handle without help.

When the highest level of autonomy is reached, warehouses and distribution centers can be turned into 'dark factories', the concept of a factory with no human involvement and therefore no need for lighting. The automotive industry however requires very specific assembly tasks that so far have proven difficult or expensive to automate. Therefore the human presence inside an automotive factory will be a defining factor for automation for the coming decades.

The development of solutions in the areas of navigation and AGV scheduling is influential for the industry of AGVs itself. It is, however, outside the scope of this project to develop solutions that optimize AGV scheduling, navigation, mapping or localization. Technical problems that still exist within these fields are assumed solved or solvable to allow this project to focus on the Human-to-AGV interaction.

3.3 Situation Awareness

Situation awareness (SA) is defined by Endsley as the perception of environmental elements and events with respect to time or space, the comprehension of their meaning, and the projection of their future status [27].

One of the most adopted theoretical frameworks for situation awareness is Endsley's model [27]. The model works in three steps (or levels) leading up to a decision and its execution. The first level concerns the *perception* of the monitored elements (these can, for example, be objects, events and people). The second level is called *comprehension* and requires that the individual can create cognitive connections between the separated elements and understand how they interact and create causality. The third and final level of situation awareness allows the individual to *project* what it has learned on the first 2 levels on future situations. The individual obtains a predictive capability over the situation.

Apart from this, there are individual factors, environmental, and task factors that influence all steps of the process including the decision and the performance with which it is executed. Examples of individual factors are the experience, goals and knowledge of the individual. Examples of environmental factors are the complexity, dynamics and transparency of the system as described in [3]. Examples of task factors are the workload of the task as well as its complexity and structure. Because of the number of influential factors, Van Doorn argues a holistic approach is required when measuring and assessing situation awareness [28].

Image 15: A diagram showing Endsley's model for Situation Awareness [13].

In some situations, errors made by manufacturing operators can result in large damages, expensive loss of progress, and health risks ranging from injury to loss of life (environments where this is the case are called 'mission-critical'). In the United States of America, 61 robot-related workplace fatalities were reported between 1992 and 2015 [29]. Especially in these environments improving the situation awareness is critical for preventing incidents and correcting errors where they arise [2]. The cause of human errors can be attributed to three main problem factors: the degree of complexity, dynamics, and lack of transparency within the system [3].

Moving toward the factory 4.0 paradigm will likely result in operators having more responsibilities [30] and having to survey a cyber-physical system that is increasingly complex, dynamic, and nontransparent. These problem fields lead to a higher mental workload resulting in lower task performance. Because of this development situation awareness is the main metric used to measure the success of designed interventions in this project.

Measuring situation awareness

There are multiple standardized methods for measuring situation awareness: SAGAT (Situation Awareness Global Assessment Technique) provides an objective measure of SA based on queries during freezes in a simulation, this is referred to as a freeze probe technique [31]. The main advantage of SAGAT is that it allows an objective, unbiased index of SA that assesses operator SA across a wide range of elements that are important for SA in a particular system. [32] SART (Situational Awareness Rating Technique) [33] is a different measuring technique that provides an assessment of the SA provided by some system based on an operators' subjective opinion. The main advantages of SART are that it is easy to use and can be administered in a wide range of task types [32]. The choice of a measurement method will depend on the mode of testing that is used at the end of the project.

3.4 Communication

Human-Robot Spatial Interaction (HRSI)

Moshayedi et al. note in a review paper concerning novel AGV challenges that the interaction between human and AGV is considered one of the greatest roadblocks for a successful AGV installation, with the trust in the AGV being the most important factor [34].

Human-Robot Spatial Interaction (HRSI), is the study of joint movement of robots and humans through space and the social signals governing these interactions [35]. This is a more specific study area that falls within the study of Human-to-Robot communication as briefly discussed in chapter 3.4 and deals exclusively with multi-agent systems. Within HRSI a goal is to improve the predictability and legibility of mobile robots. Many researchers outline the importance of legibility especially for navigating robots such as AGVs [35]–[37]. Within the context we can define three categories of communication: Human-to-Human, Machine-to-machine, and Machine-to-Human. In modern industrial applications, communication is often bi-directional. Machines and humans communicate with each other and will iterate and adapt in accordance with each other's input.

This project will primarily concern itself with Machine-to-Human communication. This is the type of communication that should be optimized in order to increase situation awareness.

Depending on the context three different categories of communication from a machine such as an AGV toward the human operator can be defined: Legacy, Status, and Intention. Put in simpler words these communications are the past actions, current status, and future intentions respectively.

Image 16: Diagram depicting the types of communication between humans and machines. In this project, the type of information is primarily spatial and the mode of communication is primarily visual.

Legacy communication

Perhaps the least relevant for the industrial context of use is the communication of the past actions of the AGV. It does, however, allow the interacting user to backtrack perceived problems and error behavior of the machine. With sufficient training, this may increase the likelihood for the individual user to reach the 'projection' level of situation awareness.

Status communication

Status communication comes in two shapes in this context. Firstly, the machine reports all data of its sensors in a continuous stream to the centralized processing unit. This includes positions, temperatures, and forces. From this information, it automatically can be deduced whether the machine is having problems or whether certain performance values are falling outside of the

acceptable boundaries. When the reported values are used to determine whether parts of the machine are approaching these boundaries repairs can be automatically planned to intervene before the machine fails. This is called predictive maintenance. It is mainly a machine-to-machine type of communication where only after reaching certain conditions humans are notified about the required maintenance steps to be taken to guarantee smooth planned production.

The other way in which machines report on their status is between machine and human. This happens mostly directly on the factory floor where workers and operators might need to assess the machines' status and current task directly. This can be done using lights, screens or voice generation.

Intention communication

An important factor for achieving situation awareness and higher perceived safety is the communication of intent. If an AGV can successfully communicate its intent, comprehension, and projection (levels 2 and 3 of Endsley's model) can more easily be achieved.

This works in two ways. The user will also need to communicate its navigational intent to the AGV. This can be done by interpreting the head pose [38] or by tracking the eye movement [39], [40].

Apart from navigation other types of intent also need to be communicated between humans and machines such as the spatial positioning of a robot arm [41]. As the amount of automation and flexibility grows within the factory, we will need more intention communication between machines and humans.

3.5 Augmented Reality

The Virtuality Continuum

Milgram and Kishino define a spectrum of visual display techniques that they group as 'Mixed reality' [42] and which they group as a subset of Virtual Reality displays.

Image 17: a visualization of the mixed reality landscape. Adapted from Milgram and Kishino [42]*.*

Let's talk about the spectrum and the four categories defined within image 17 with the exception of the real environment since that would concern our unenhanced real world.

A virtual reality environment attempts to suppress all senses of the subject in order to make room for new sensory input that is virtually created. The subject is therefore closed off from the real world. Popular examples are virtual reality glasses such as the Oculus Rift and HTC Vive. These types of solutions often cover the visual and auditory senses. Haptic gloves can be used to create a virtual haptic sensation and there are even solutions for creating olfactory sensations e.g. smells.

Image 18: In virtual reality, senses are blocked off in order to be replaced. In this picture we see a man use an HTC Vive for visual VR, a headset for auditory VR and HapTX haptic gloves for haptic VR.

Augmented virtuality is equal to a virtual environment that is enhanced and supplemented by virtually placing real-world objects inside of it or using other real-world factors.

Augmented Reality

According to Azuma [43] a (visual) AR system should:

- Combine real and virtual objects
- Run interactively and in real-time
- Register and align the real and virtual objects

In the context of this project, we are primarily discussing Augmented Reality. There are different ways of augmenting virtual layers on the real world. Subsets of this modality are spatial augmented reality, recorded augmented reality, and see-through augmented reality (which in turn includes head-mounted displays). The four types considered for this project are discussed in more detail in chapter 5.4.

When objects are removed or replaced in the real environment this can additionally be called *mediated* or *diminished* reality. If this is done carefully and in a contextually adaptive manner it can be deployed to lower perceived complexity.

Image 19: The physical equivalent of a "diminished reality". The TV remote has all buttons that are not needed covered with tape to minimize confusion and misuse. Image source: Reddit.

Spatial Augmented Reality

In their book about Mixed reality experiences Meschini et al. [44] define Spatial augmented reality as *"augmentations of real-world objects and scenes without the use of special displays such as monitors, head-mounted displays or hand-held devices'. SAR makes use of digital projectors to display graphical information onto physical objects"*

This definition ties SAR specifically to the use of digital projectors and prescribes that any other medium cannot create a SAR.

For the purpose of this project, we will slightly broaden this definition. We define SAR as *the use of augmented layers of visual information that use the same spatial distribution as the real world*. This definition would include projects such as The Shaderlamps project [45] see (image 20)., in which a hand-held device is used to project on objects. This would fall outside the original definition provided by Meschini et al, while it could easily be argued that this is an excellent example of the spatial variation of AR.

Image 20: This 2001 project called Shaderlamps [45], [46] *explored a variety of tabletop applications to apply colors and textures to real-life objects using projectors.*

Image 21: Projections can be used to illuminate shelves and products in storerooms. guiding employees to a specific product, giving alerts when supply is low and providing improved situation awareness in general. Image source: Alexander Isreb on Pexels (Creative Commons).

Image 22: Multiple academic groups are researching possibilities to use spatial augmented reality to aid in repair, maintenance, and assembly tasks. This is an example from Mengoni et al. [47] *using a projector and depth sensors (Microsoft Kinect) to aid in the assembly of a phone.*

Only when this is done in collaboration with cameras and other sensors we can speak of real augmented reality because the information becomes interactive and updates in real-time, fulfilling the second requirement set by Azuma et al. (*an AR system should run interactively and in real-time)* [43]

Because multiple people can observe the same augmented information in the real world without the need for installations that measure the human observer (transparent screen) or hardware mounted to the human observer (HMD) this approach has been found well suited for collaborative applications. More specific applications of Spatial Augmented Reality are outlined in chapter 5.3 where we shall discuss it in relation to AGVs and situation awareness.

Technological challenges and limitations

While VR headsets have proven to induce a troublesome amount of motion sickness and dizziness in some individuals, research indicates that this may be less the case for AR headsets [48] because most of the visual context used for orientation is maintained. However, research still needs to be done toward the potential health risks of elongated AR headset use.

Applying spatial augmented reality can only be done for selective spaces. Illuminating entire factories with projections is (and will probably remain) too costly, both in terms of installation and maintenance. One way to minimize the hardware cost is to consider which contexts are best suited for enrichment with spatial augmented reality solutions. Another way is to make the projection move with the user (for example the shaderlamps project in image 20 or by attaching the projector to an AGV)

Although Azuma et al. describe that all senses can be augmented [43], Mangold estimates that 85- 90% of information processing by humans is done by the visual system [49]. Therefore we prioritize visual augmentation while keeping in mind that auditory and haptic augmentation are promising additions to support and enrich a visual augmented experience.

3.6 Key insights (fundamentals)

The following list contains the most important insights that are relevant for the project:

- The development of AGVs is a prime driver for other industry 4.0 innovations.
- There are certain prerequisites for an industrial smart AGV network:
	- \circ The factory needs a high sensor density approaching the level on which a digital twin of the factory can be made.
	- \circ There needs to be a state of cooperation between industrial robotics and human workers. This in turn requires a multitude of innovations to streamline and optimize the interactions between them. This project aims to contribute in this regard.
- The road to Industry 4.0 is vastly different from industry to industry and from company to company. For Magna smart adaptive transport systems are pivotal to prepare for a market that is becoming more and more demanding in terms of speed and customizability.
- This project focusses on the optimization of the visual communication of spatial information between human and machine. Other challenges in the AGV industry such as planning, scheduling, navigation, and localization are left out of focus. The communication is divided into 3 parts: legacy (past), status (current), and intention (future).
- For this project we consider the AGVs to use LiDAR sensor for the SLAM method.
- Within the AGV system, the balance between autonomy and supervisory control will shift more toward autonomy as we move to more futuristic industry states.
- Endsley's model and definition are used to define situation awareness.
- The decision of a SA measurement method depends on the type of evaluation chosen for the later stages of the project. SAGAT can be used in user simulations while SART is applicable on a wide range of other types of evaluations.
- Within the virtual continuum as defined by Milgram and Kishino this project focusses on augmented reality with a focus on the spatial variety because it is specifically potent in visual spatial communication.
- Applying spatial augmented reality on an entire factory at the same time is (and will probably remain) too costly. The context of application needs to be carefully considered so spatial augmented reality can be applied where it brings the most value.

Chapter 4

Contextual Research

On 11 September 2019, a visit was brought to the Smart Factory department of Magna in their factory plant in Graz, Austria. Presentations were given about Magna's efforts to move toward the industry 4.0 paradigm, their AGVs, and developments in the fields of AR and VR, big data, and Internet of Things. In chapter 4.1. the key insights from the visit are discussed. In chapter 4.2 this information is processed to formulate the vision of Magna regarding the smart factory and its components such as AGVs. In chapter 4.3. we discuss the three distinct factory states, which are abstractions of the technological state of the current factory (current state), the future factory (intermediary state), and the factory in the far future (future state). Chapter 4.4 talks about four different application contexts, which are specific user roles and scenarios for which AR designs could be made. The factory state and application contexts are variable factors of the scope.

4.1 Key insights Graz visit

See appendix B for a complete set of notes concerning the visit to Graz.

AGV prototypes

The Smart Factory team has created three AGV prototypes of which the last one is ready for use in a real manufacturing context.

The lighting system used in prototype 3.0 covers a wide range of necessary Human-Computer communications such as a few status indications (loading, waiting, starting to park, etc.) and intentions ("will make a left turn")

Image 23: [REMOVED] A rendering of the Magna AGV Prototype 3. Further information was removed to protect sensitive business information.

Image 24: Magna AGV Prototype 1 in action with a storage delivery rack mounted as a modular attachment.

Opportunities:

- Sound is not yet used for communication between AGV and workers.
- The first prototype contained a screen for showing sensor info, error states and other metrics. Prototype 3.0 no longer contains a screen. This information is found on the desktop application. A screen can be useful for workers that require more detailed information about an AGV (current task, error state, etc.)

Image 25: The screen on prototype 1 shows additional information such as the values of the sensors and the status of the AGV.

The AGV can be outfitted with different addons (robot arm, storage rack or a lift that can carry a Euro pallet). The AGV uses depth sensors to sense if an obstruction is nearby. If the obstruction is in the warning zone the AGV will slow down. If the object enters the Stop zone the AGV will make an emergency stop.

The AGV uses the SLAM method for navigation in combination with InCubed software. The SLAM information is shared with the central server so a real-time map of the factory is built which all AGVs can use.

Industry State

Many OEMs (Original Equipment Manufacturers) are researching technologies that allow for advanced intralogistics solutions (in line with the industry 4.0 vision). The way that these technologies are implemented will greatly influence the role of the AGV and the way it is controlled.

Supplementing the industry 4.0 paradigm, there is also a vision of the reconfigurable smart factory: a highly flexible factory floor on which all machinery and parts are transported by or mounted on AGVs. All hardware is only present where and when it is needed.

New technological integrations are needed to make this a reality. Innovations such as AR, VR, AI, IoT, big data, and predictive maintenance can help.

Magna has already successfully utilized a large range of these technologies in real cases:

- Product impression in VR (showing customers and clients cars in a VR environment).
- Ergonomics evaluation in VR.
- Walkthrough of a production set with the client (the manufacturing and assembly line) in a 3d model.
- Augmented reality is used for quality control. Going through the checklist with an AR headset on. Quick access to documentation. Automatically run down the checklist. This greatly reduces errors.
- A meeting space with 3 integrated projectors, and a large central touch screen which is engineered towards effective meetings both internal and with suppliers and clients.

The amount of sensor data collected in the factory is already enough to allow for a digital twin to be constructed. This amount of data can be used to have the system present decision-makers (supervisors) with actionable information.

The CoCoAs project proposal specifically mentions the development of swarm behavior that will allow groups of AGVs to transport larger units such as complete cars. However, this is currently not a development priority.

Current AGV implementation

In the current factory, forklifts are outfitted with a screen that shows the tasks assigned to that forklift (for example: 3 pallets labeled JM01 from loading dock C to assembly line 59).

AGV's are also used inside the factory and are a vital part of the assembly line.

To give an example of a current AGV implementation: an AGV brings car seats from one side of the assembly line to the other, greatly increasing efficiency and reducing costs. The AGV is alone and mostly isolated from the other subsystems of the factory. Its behavior is simple and predictable and only deviates if a worker enters its direct surroundings. (a more detailed look on this can be found in 'Industry state – current')

Image 26: [REMOVED] A screen of the forklift driver gives a good indication of the distribution of tasks. Specific forklifts get tasks to deliver a specific number of pellets from a location to another. Further information was removed to protect sensitive business information.

The factory currently has a layout that is similar to a district with streets. Vehicles keep right and can not deviate far from their planned route. In a context like this the usefulness of autonomous wayfinding is limited. Obstructions are very temporary.

In the "reconfigurable smart factory" however, the street layout will disappear, and the layout will be in a state of continuous change. Adaptive wayfinding will then be essential for the efficiency of the AGV.

4.2 The Magna mission

Magna International (of which Magna Steyr is a part) has more than 60 years of experience in the automotive industry. Magna creates components and entire cars for a very large variety of car brands (General Motors, Ford, BMW, Mercedes, Volkswagen, and Tesla Motors, among others).

The automotive industry is moving more and more into a future where the car as a product is highly customizable. Current day manufacturing and assembly practices allow only for superficial customizations such as interior and software options. All other customizations are costly and require parallel production sets.

Industry 4.0 developments are offering an increase in the flexibility that can be imbued in the assembly line. car manufacturers are already moving from 'dedicated manufacturing systems' that are geared toward a single product to 'flexible manufacturing systems' that can vary certain parts of the production within pre-set values. In order for the vision of Industry 4.0 to become a reality another step needs to be made toward reconfigurable manufacturing systems that can make a large variety of different products by reconfiguring the system during a relatively short changeover period [50]. Leading in these developments is particularly interesting for Magna because as an independent manufacturing partner their factories see a lot more changeovers than other manufacturers that focus on making a single model for a very long time.

As described in the fundamentals chapter a lot of other high-tech components associated with industry 4.0 are necessary to make the smart factory as efficient, flexible, and safe as it can be. Magna has a head start in these developments by already actively using technologies such as AR, VR, Big Data, and Internet of Things in their manufacturing process. In addition, Magna already has workable digital twins that can be used by potential AGV swarms.

In the smart factory of the future supplies, machines and cars need to be where they are necessary to accelerate the process. The application of AGVs is an essential key to achieving this flexibility.

Image 27: Factory data is converted by the computer system into actionable knowledge. The point in the process where a human operator intervenes in this process is defining for the balance between autonomy and supervision.

The DIKW model [51] describes information as being structured in 4 levels: data, information, knowledge, and wisdom. Information is defined as data that is structured to contain meaning. Knowledge is defined as contextualized information. Wisdom is defined as knowledge that is fully understood and therefore actionable. This can also be called actionable knowledge.

One of Magna's goals for the future is to provide its process supervisors with more actionable knowledge. This indicates that in terms of the balance between supervisory control and autonomy as described in chapter 3.2 Magna wishes to move more toward autonomy of the system where only the highest level of decisions are made by human supervisors.

4.3 Industry State

The industry state is a measure to indicate how far a factory has progressed toward the industry 4.0 paradigm. This cannot be expressed on a linear scale because it is not standardized which technologies belong to this goal, in what way they are integrated into the manufacturing process, and in what order they are to be implemented. For this project, three phases are defined through which the Magna production set is expected to progress. On the following page, you will find three illustrations of strongly simplified fictional factories that show the Human-to-AGV interactions possible within it.

Image 28: Industry states are an abstraction of the state of technological integration. In what year other states are achieved is entirely dependent on business and investment decisions made by Magna. This image provides an estimation.

4.4. Application Context

De Pace et al. defines five major areas of application for AR in the industry domain: Human-Robot Collaboration, maintenance-assembly-repair, training, product inspection, and building monitoring [52]. Magna has already indicated to be actively applying AR and VR in at least the first four domains in this list. Four application contexts within the factory have been selected which are likely to benefit from AR solutions.

Supervisor/process- planner

The supervisor keeps an overview of all activities of the AGVs. **Future planning:** the supervisor states his intent (e.g. we need to make 88 Jaguar E-pace with configuration X) to the central control server which translates this into tasks that are distributed among the AGVs. Alternatively, the supervisor enters a specific task for the AGVs to perform.

Status Quo: the supervisor monitors the current state of the assembly line.

Past: the supervisor evaluates irregularities and efficiency.

Factory floor worker

Workers on the factory floor share their work with the AGVs. It is essential that:

- They complement each other's work.
- Human workers do not block AGVs from fulfilling their tasks.
- Human workers feel safe and in control around the AGVs.

The responsibilities of the worker regarding the AGVs include:

- Execute small corrections of the AGV's actions.
- Solve small errors.

Larger constructive problems with the functioning of the AGVs are picked up by supervisors and maintenance.

Troubleshooting / Maintenance

AGVs routinely need maintenance. Depending on the industry state the AGVs might be outfitted with predictive maintenance technology allowing it to evaluate and plan its own maintenance schedule. Explorations have been done to use AR as an indicative measure for the spatial locations of errors [53] [2] or using remote guidance to execute maintenance and repair tasks [54].

Troubleshooting is the activity of identifying and resolving an error state or incorrect behavior exhibited by the AGV. Much like a doctor diagnosing and treating a patient.

Installation

Installing an AGV solution is considered to contain the following steps:

Evaluation: assessing whether using an AGV is the most suitable option for the task.

Design: deciding how an AGV will execute the task.

Installation: The physical placement and connection of the AGV solution to the rest of the assembly line. (Cyber-Physical System design)

Testing: Evaluating whether the AGV installation was successful and making adjustments where needed.

This application context is mostly applicable to the current and

intermediate industry state. In these factories, AGVs are matched by humans with specific activities. In the future industry state, almost all activities are executed by the AGV swarm autonomously and installation for isolated tasks is not needed. AR has found broad support for spatial planning tasks such as planning factory assembly lines [55].

Chapter 5

Research on related work

After defining the fundamental knowledge in chapter 3 and exploring the context of use in chapter 4, this chapter will look toward more specific research and technological applications. Several topics arise when the 'ingredients' from chapter 3 are combined.

In section 5.1 we take a look at the academic connection between the application of augmented reality and situation awareness. Section 5.2 gives an insight into the state of literature concerning AGV adaptation in the industrial context and what it means to create a 'swarm'. Section 5.3 investigates the deployment of AR to monitor AGVs. That chapter also contains a section dedicated specifically to spatial augmented reality. Section 5.4 covers the four selected ways of creating AR, called *technological frameworks*, a variable factor of the scope of this project. In section 5.5 we recap the most important findings of the specific research

5.1 AR in relation to Situation Awareness

Because of the ability of AR to filter, select, and supplement information in a real-life setting it is often suggested as a technological means to improve situation awareness. Bell et al. explored this by providing workers with a miniature version of their surroundings in AR [56], thus providing them with improved situation awareness.

In the manufacturing industry, the relation between and AR and SA is very well researched. A valuable opportunity is the improvement of SA in remote collaboration [57] [58] as well as during the spatial planning of factories [59].

The link between Augmented Reality and Situation Awareness is also thoroughly investigated outside the manufacturing context. Lukosch & Lukosch [60] apply AR to create SA for collaborations in the security domain such as interactions between emergency and security personnel. Livingston did the same for a military context [61].

Image 29: Image adapted from Lukosch & Lukosch [60]*. Two policemen are virtually co-located using an AR HMD. The remote colleague can highlight suspicious objects in the scene or point in the direction of emergency exits.*

In these papers, a strong trend seems to be to limit the information found in mission-critical environments and to provide agents with contextually relevant information. The applications for the positive effect between augmented reality and situation awareness are not limited to any specific industries and the results found in academic research (improvement of situation awareness and reduction of mental and physical workload) are promising.

5.2 The smart factory and the AGV

The most striking difference between the past industry state and the intermediate state as seen in chapter 4 is the replacement of the human-operated forklifts by AGVs. Toward the future industry state more and more machines will become AGVs as well (or become attachments for AGVs with more or less the same result)

The complete title of the CoCoAs project, of which this project is part (see stakeholder map in chapter 2) is *'Collaborating and coupled AGV swarms with extended environment recognition'*.

When we talk about a swarm, we mean a step beyond centralized control of the AGVs. In a swarm the loose elements (in this case the AGVs) are 'conscious' of each other's activities and can act to supplement each other resulting in a collective behavior rather than the sum of multiple individual behaviors. An example of this would be to use multiple smaller AGVs to move a car that could not have been moved properly with one single AGV. This kind of swarm behavior belongs to the 'future industry state' as described in chapter 4.3.

In a system that contains strictly machine-to-machine interactions, everything can be geared toward efficiency, cost, and risk reduction. Adding humans to the equation makes the situation a lot harder to optimize because the human to machine interactions are more complex and introduce more factors to the situation that need optimization. For the smart factory, it is no longer enough for the AGVs and workers to simply coexist, they need to collaborate in a shared work process [62].

One of the factors introduced when humans enter the equation is called 'social cost' and is a collective term for everything that is demanded from the human interacting with the AGV. Loss of trust or an annoyance with the way the AGV behaviors would be examples of social cost. Researchers such as Ramon-Vigo and Perez-Higueras apply 'inverse reinforcement learning' to derive social cost functions that can help predict what the most preferable robot behavior would be [21], [63]. These researches however were done for autonomous robots working in public spaces such as museums and boardwalks where socially acceptable behavior is very important. In the industrial context, the balance between social cost and financial cost will tend to move toward the financial side instead. The advantage of a specialized context such as a manufacturing factory is that users can be trained in the proper interaction with the AGVs and can be required to wear certain safety or guidance measures such as safety vests [40].

5.3 AR and AGVs

Augmented Reality and AGVs

De Pace et al. [52] describes that AR is a promising technology that can enhance the user's ability to understand:

- 1. The movements of a mobile robot.
- 2. The movements of a robotic arm.
- 3. The forces applied by a robot.

These are all metrics that, when communicated sufficiently with the operator, improve his or her situation awareness. Specifically, the first enhancement (movement of a mobile robot) is relevant for this project while the other ones becoming further stretching opportunities once AR frameworks are adopted within the factory.

While numerous innovations have been proposed to use AR technologies to assist in robotic path planning [14][64], these researches take a different approach to the application of AR. For example, Erdei et al. [14] use AR to scan QR-tags to locate AGVs in the factory. The AR is used as a sensory system for robot-to-robot communication instead of the robot-to-human communication investigated in this project.

Let's take a look at two research initiatives that propose methods meant for increasing and improving the information available to the operator through AR, an endeavor more in line with the goal of this project:

Image 30: Within the app the user can place and see virtual obstacles that the AGVs consider. The user can influence the AGV path and he or she can see the world like the AGV does (image adopted from Papcun et al. [23]*)*

Papcun et al. [23] propose a system specifically designed for the transition from the more static 'fixed slotting warehouses' to the dynamic 'chaotic slotting warehouses'. This is a vision that is in line with the expected developments described in chapter 3.1 concerning the smart factory and which reserves an important role for AGVs. The proposed system uses recorded AR through a phone (see chapter 5.4. recorded AR) or smart glasses (see chapter 5.4 HMD AR) to highlight obstacles and paths for the user.

Piardi et al. [65] present a system called 'ARENA' meant for active experimentation in smart warehouses, aiming to promote the real characteristics of the factory floor. Video footage of the factory is overlaid with an AR layer which adds information about states, zones, AGVs, tasks, and other elements found in the factory (see chapter 5.4 for an explanation of the 'recorded AR' technological framework).

Image 31: visualization of the ARENA system [65]*. On the left we see an impression of the warehouse. on the right we see the same warehouse with a layer of information showing sections, AGV paths, and AGV safety zones.*

Spatial Augmented Reality and AGVs

When designing an interface solution for the problem of improving perceived safety and situation awareness in the study of Human-Robot Spatial Interaction (HRSI) It might be logical to resort to spatial interfaces.

There are promising leads that indicate that simple solutions such as lamp indicators (that communicate a navigational intention) improve the comfort experienced by the users [35]. However, this modality has a limitation in terms of expressing detailed navigation information such as future trajectory and context-dependent information [40]. Spatial augmented reality offers many advantages in this regard. Researchers like Chadalavada et al. and Matsumaru have done multiple experiments with a projector unit mounted on top of a mobile robot. By projecting simple information such as the future trajectory of the mobile robot and safe paths around it on the shared floor they were able to improve the communication, reliability, predictability, transparency, and situation awareness as it was perceived by the human subject [66], [67], [68]. Coovert et al. use comparable hardware to demonstrate that individuals can determine the upcoming movement of the AGV with high confidence [69]. Further advantages of the SAR method are demonstrated by Park [70], who shows that projections around an AGV can be an alternative to anthropomorphic interaction styles and can solve the ergonomic difficulties that touch screen interactions have.

Image 32: adopted from Chadalavada [40]*. The research compared the capability of intent communication of a projected arrow, a line, a blinking arrow or nothing.*

Image 33: adopted from Chadalavada [67]*. a projected indication of the area needed for an emergency stop (in red) and the footprint of the robot in the next 5 seconds (in green). A barely visible white line should indicate the direction. The goal of these experimentations was to see if information like this spatially mapped would influence human trust in the robot. Trust was defined as a combination of 5 attributes: communication, reliability, predictability, transparency and situation awareness. The perceived values of the factors were measured in human subjects and a significant increase in all 5 attributes was found when the projections were provided compared to no projections.*

Image 35: an experimental setup by Coovert [69] *shows the user which obstacles have been perceived by the AGV. The sytem makes distinctions between short term, mid term and long-term problems and assigns visual cues which signal an appropriate amount of urgency.*

Image 34: Matsumaru [68] *shows various pieces of information in the projection: an arrow indicating direction and speed, status information, and incoming motions such as a revolution on the spot.*

Image 36: Park & Kim [70] *propose to use projections on an Autonomous robot as an alternative to the anthropomorphic interaction paradigm (imitation of human interactions). Interactions are facilitated through mobile devices or a laser pen.*

5.4 Technological Framework

Visual augmented reality can be achieved in a variety of ways. Considering the contextual research of chapter 4, four methods for creating AR have been selected that are deemed feasible for the manufacturing context. We call these methods 'technological frameworks' and they are a variable factor to the scope of the project (as explained in chapter 1.1), meaning that one will need to be selected.

Projected AR

Transparent Screen AR

A projector is used to display information on the object itself.

This is a form of Spatial augmented reality. The augmented layer is created with hardware that is external to the user. A group of people can look at the same augmented object for cooperative purposes.

A transparent screen is used to add a layer of information to the real world.

This can be done with transparent OLED or by using holographic glass such as the HOPS projection glass [71]. This is a type of glass that reliably redirects light if it hits the glass under a specific angle. Using a projector an image can be projected while the rest of the surface remains transparent.

Head Mounted Display (HMD) AR

The user wears a contraption on their head, similar to a pair of glasses which adds a digital augmented layer to the vision of the user. A large variety of methods can be used to create the augmented layer. Well known examples include Google Glass, Magic Leap, and the Microsoft HoloLens.

Recorded Augmentation

When a real-life scene is captured by a digital camera and digitally enhanced or supplemented before playback, we define this as 'recorded augmentation'. Modern hardware reduces the playback delay to such low levels that it is perceived by users as a real-life display.

A popular example is the mobile game Pokémon Go, where apart from using the players' actual GPS location for the game, monsters are augmented in footage that is recorded and played back on the mobile device. Because this can be done by almost any smartphone, this method is relatively cheap, and the technology required is widely available.

5.5 Key insights (Specific research)

The following list contains the most important insights from this chapter that are relevant for the project:

- Research has indicated that applying augmented reality is a useful measure to increase situation awareness in an industrial setting. Observing the development of factories becoming more dynamic and chaotic, many researchers focus on improving the information flow to the operators. Applying AR is a promising tool to facilitate this. Spatial augmented reality in this regard is especially interesting because it is a good fit for the highly dynamic and collaborative industry 4.0 future.
- Advantages of spatial AR compared to HMD AR and recorded AR:
	- o Multiple people can look at the same augmented layer and they will be looking at the same information mapped in space in the same way, meaning they can discuss the information with confidence that it is presented to everyone in the same way.
	- o Less expensive hardware is required.
	- o Users do not need to fit an HMD on their heads and calibrate the display.
	- o Communicating spatial information works the most intuitively when done in a spatial manner.
- When introducing a more autonomous behavior in AGVs, more social elements need to be introduced to make the AGVs capable of co-habiting and co-working with humans. Examples are social costs, the perception of the AGV behavior, and perceived safety. AGVs in closed environments such as a factory can however be approached differently than AGVs that interact with the public. Optimization can be shifted toward efficiency rather than the social desirability of the behavior because workers can be trained on how to interact with the AGVs.
- A future as described in the 'future industry state' (see chapter 4.3.) will probably bring swarm intelligence to AGVs enabling collective behavior and the pursuit of collective goals.
- With the 'ARENA' system. Piardi et al. [65] propose a set of information that may be overlaid on top of a factory layout to offer more information to operators. It should be noted that ARENA focusses on the design of new factory layouts rather than factories that are in full operation.
- As described by Park et al. [70] spatial augmented reality can provide an alternative to anthropomorphic interaction styles and can solve the ergonomics problems present in touch screen solutions.
- Personalizing the projected information can be an interesting opportunity, also proposed by Chadalavada [66].
- Lessons learned during this project may also apply to other mission-critical contexts since many of these industries are looking for suitable AR interventions and conditions are often comparable.

Part Development & Iteration

Chapter 6

Solution spaces

As explained in chapter 1.2. (the scope) a solution space is a combination of all factors of the scope. Apart from the fixed factors, it consists of one chosen industry state, one application context, and one technological framework. Since there are three industry states (current, intermediate, future), four application contexts (supervisor, worker, maintenance, installation), and four technological frameworks (projected AR, transparent screen AR, HMD AR, recorded AR) this combines in a total of 36 possible solution spaces. Only if an AR intervention can reasonably be applied in the given combination a part of the morphological chart will be colored green and thus marked 'fertile' for AR solutions (see chart on page 55). For example: a transparent screen AR will not work for the supervisor in the current and intermediate industry state because it is expected that the street-like infrastructure will obstruct the direct view of the supervisor.

The decision about whether a solution space is fertile for innovation or not is not as binary as the chart suggests. The decision is based on multiple factors described in chapter 1 and the designer's vision.

6.1 Selection criteria for a solution space

Requirements derived from the assignment

As is described in more detail in chapter 1.2, the scope of the project is defined by the following fixed requirements. The project involves:

- Interaction with **AGVs** and not with other machinery or robots.
- The application of **augmented reality.**
- The **visual communication between human and machine.**
- Improvement of the **situation awareness** within the chosen application context.

Situation awareness is a less relevant measure in the application context of maintenance and installation. This makes the solution spaces for these application contexts less suitable for this project.

Requirements from Magna

Magna wants to have the augmented reality solution **integrated into the existing AGV platform**; this means that the next innovative step taken should connect to the factory context as it exists now while also extending further than the current possibilities. This indicates a strong preference for the intermediate factory state.

Of course, the solution will need to be **economically viable** for Magna, delivering value that exceeds the investment costs.

Magna has a strong preference for solutions that **aid the factory floor worker** and sees less potential value in creating AR solutions for the supervisor /process-planner position

Installation of new AGV systems is done by external companies which makes AR interventions meant for the **installation process** less interesting for Magna.

Directions from personal vision

In my vision, augmented reality solutions will become not only an important part of the industry but also in our personal lives. Although augmented reality has the ability to enhance the communication between machines and humans it should not limit or obstruct communication between humans in the process. Technological solutions such as head-mounted displays create a personalized augmented layer which may become a barrier for human-to-human communication if not correctly calibrated. This may become an obstacle that makes the AR technology less accessible. Because of these observations a preference exists toward a projected spatial augmented reality solution.

Vision-based design

A big design challenge within this project is created by the fact that many research fields discussed in this report are all under active development or still in their infancy. The design problem does not yet truly exist because the technological conditions in which that design would be necessary are still in their early phases.

The approach for this project will therefore be based on a vision of the smart factory and the technologies that are part of it. This might mean that the world in which this ideation is performed might develop in a different way than was assumed in this report. An example of vision-based design is the industry states as illustrated in chapter 4.3. A lot of substantiated assumptions need to be made in order to assess what the factory will look like beyond the year 2025. However, this practice does allow for meaningful ideation with a clear goal without having to resort to generalized conclusions because of the unfinished state of the industrial development.

installation

Q

future

future

6.2 Nominated solution spaces

Two solution spaces were selected as suitable for the project.

AGV with mounted projector

An ultra-short throw projector mounted on top of an AGV could illuminate the ground around the AGV offering numerous opportunities for enhanced communication between human and AGV as demonstrated by Chadalavada, Coovert, Park, and other researchers [40], [66], [68]–[70], [72].

AR cockpit with a transparent screen

From an unobstructed point of view a factory supervisor or process-planner can see the real factory with augmented layers provided by transparent screens.

This is a design direction not yet pursued by academic discourse. This may be the case because a design of this kind would require a factory floor that grants open view over a large section of the factory. Currently, many factories do not offer such an unobstructed view. The future smart factory as it could be envisioned might offer a suitable context for this design.

6.3 Selected solution space

Although both solution spaces fit the criteria set for this project (see chapter 6.1.) the **AGV with mounted projector** fits more closely with the wishes of Magna and the vision of the designer. Furthermore, academic research shows a promising perspective for this type of design intervention while still leaving more than enough space for further innovation.

Magna

The design intervention could be applied directly into the current factory state contributing to the transition toward the intermediate factory state. This design direction focusses on the factory floor worker which is the application context in which Magna sees the most potential.

Personal Vision

The use of projected AR fits more closely to the vision and skill of the designer.

Other

Research efforts toward comparable solutions have resulted in favorable results, indicating a potential for this kind of solution in the manufacturing context to improve situation awareness and reduce both physical and mental workload.

The concept of an AR cockpit with a transparent screen is further developed by a student team in the course 'Advanced Embodiment Design' (Course code: ID4175) at the faculty of Industrial Design at the TU Delft. Their concept will be adopted and further developed inside the SAM | XL research lab in Delft (see stakeholder map in chapter 2).

Chapter 7 Design Iterations

7.1 Method

The iterative process is here summarized into three main iterations. In reality, each iteration consisted of multiple smaller trials and design interventions (which may or may not be reverted at a later stage).

Simplifying the design process into these three main iterations is not representative of the real process but does allow for the documentation of the important conclusions of all trials.

Iteration 1 focusses on the initial practical implications of rigging a projector on an AGV and the direct contextual factors such as lighting conditions and the driving surface. The only observers are the researchers themselves.

Iteration 2 introduces external observers and focusses on the interaction between those observers, the AGV, and the projections.

Iteration 3 was planned to be a session of iterative testing (RITE method) but was finally executed as a formal test with two different conditions (with projected arrows and a control group without). More details about that can be read in chapter 8.4.

Image 37: Visualisation of the method of testing and the different iterations.

7.2 Iteration 1 – Practical opportunities and limitations

Goal: practical testing of rigging, positioning of the projector, lighting conditions, stability, and the driving surface

Diagram of communication:

Image 38: A simple setup with the projector and the laptop both mounted on the ridgeback. although easy to install this did pose practical implications in terms of controlling the projection.

Conclusions:

• It is positive if the projection extends a little bit along the sides of the AGV, this way people approaching from the backside of the AGV can also see the robots next move in case it intends to move toward the side the observer is walking

Image 39: Because the projection extends beyond the sides of the AGV it is possible to see an arrow indicating a potential collision course with the walking individual.

• There is still a lot of shaking in the rigging. However, this mainly occurs at acceleration and breaking and occurs less when the robot is moving at a constant pace. The shaking is not to the extent that it is problematic for testing. It might limit the readability if text is projected.

• Having the rigging adjustable in terms of angle is useful for adjusting the projection range and therefor projection size between testing.

Image 40: The projector is held at the preferred angle and position for an ideal 'canvas'.

The projection needs a slight perspective correction because of the angle of incidence.

Image 41: Because the projector is not mounted perfectly perpendicular to the floor the projection is warped. The red line indicates the actual projection canvas. The green line indicates the corrected canvas.

• 3000 ANSI Lumens seems around enough for the factory conditions, in the selection of the projector brightness should be prioritized above contrast. the contrast ratio of the projector is almost entirely irrelevant.

- A laser projector is needed because of the excessive shaking the projector is subject to. Laser projectors are far more resistant to vibrations compared to traditional lamp-based projectors.
- Textures on the factory floor are not problematic for the visibility of basic shapes (such as an arrow). Reflective surfaces can however be problematic. very dark floors can also be problematic and would require a projector with a higher light output (4000+ ANSI lumen)
- An uneven floor can cause the projection to throw short shadows, warping the projected image slightly. Brownfield applications might be more problematic.
- Wireless control over the projection is preferred because it makes testing more practical.

7.3 Iteration 2 – Projection of responsive arrows

Goal: getting first reactions to the responsive arrows from outside observers. Initially, the arrow responded to the controller input. Later it was adjusted to react to the movement vector of the ridgeback.

Image 42: For testing purposes, signals can be sent to the projector through a smartphone using 'Open Sound Control (OSC)' a protocol for sending wireless messages. This allows the researcher to control the projection wirelessly from a distance.

Conclusions:

• Based on the findings in iteration 1 a projector was selected and tested

i3 L3502W Laser Projector

This projector was selected based primarily on these three factors:

Throw distance: this is what's called an 'ultra-short throw' projector which means it can make a large image from a short distance. With a throw ratio of 0.27:1 it makes an image of 1,5 meters wide at a distance of 40cm.

Brightness: with 3500 Lumens this projector can easily create highly visible figures even in a bright lit factory hall.

Resistance to vibrations: The light source of this projector is a LED-Laser module. Traditional projectors use a bulb as the light source which wear down quickly or can malfunction under the vibrations and shocks that the projector might endure. A LED-laser module is far more durable in this regard and can produce light for up to 20.000 hours before the module needs replacing.

• The rigging (as can be seen in image 43) can be adjusted to change the angle of the projection

Image 43: simple but flexible rigging for the projector.

• Passer-by's and other invited observers experience the projected arrow as a natural indicator for direction. The arrow is appreciated far better in this regard than a single line (this was also confirmed by Chadalavada et al. [73])

• Having the arrow extend instead of turning brighter is a better metaphor for acceleration

Image 44: (left) initial concept for the visualization of acceleration during iteration 1. (right) improved visualization. Observers deemed this as a more natural metaphor for speed.

- Because projectors are best at projecting white light the white color creates the most contrast and works best on the factory floor. colors with less white light in it such as red make a far less vibrant impression on the floor.
- Visuals are triggered manually at this point (at Industrial Design Engineering at the TU Delft this is often referred to as the 'Wizard of Oz-technique') Because the AGV and the laptop are moving we need to be able to trigger visuals remotely. Touch OSC is a standard for sending wireless messages mostly used to communicate between music- or lighting devices. It can be used to control the projections with extremely low latency. This allows for wireless control of the projection, but the laptop still needs to be mounted on top of the AGV
- By using a MiraCast device the laptop may be removed from the AGV, connecting wirelessly to the projector. The MiraCast introduces a slight delay (200ms) which is noticeable but acceptable for testing. This final information infrastructure is visualized in image 45.
- The Ridgeback is capable of omnidirectional movement. Observers consider this type of movement to be very unpredictable. Luckily, the model of AGV used by Magna is not omnidirectional and will therefore only require projection on the front of the AGV. For further testing the omnidirectional movement of the Ridgeback will not be used.

7.4. Iteration 3 – Formal test with a control group

Original plan

The original plan of iteration 3 was not primarily to do a validation of a specific design but to iterate further on the design supported by the input from test participants. The intention was to use the RITE method for this (Rapid Iteration Testing and Evaluation) [74] in which it is customary to make design changes in between tests. Participants would be invited to the lab and given a task in a controlled environment. An example of such a task would be 'walk straight ahead at the crossing'. During the task the user would encounter the AGV with a pre-set behavior.

A short quantitative questionnaire would be given for each scenario (the TLX and SART methods would be used, which will be explained later in chapter 8) followed by a qualitative discussion with the participants. This qualitative discussion would form the basis for design interventions to be made before the next participant arrives.

Corona plan

because of the COVID-19 pandemic testing in person in the lab was not possible. A plan for filming was hastily drafted and executed in order to get the right video material for remote testing. The scenarios drafted for the original plan were adopted in remote testing.

The original goal of iterating on the design was replaced by a more formal goal to validate the merit of projected AR on AGVs.

Alternatively, testing is now conducted through a remote questionnaire with videos. The method used is a derivative of the 'freeze-probe' methodology. The participant is placed in a simulated environment (in this case a 'POV'-video). Once the video leads up to a decisive moment the video suddenly cuts to black. the participant must then decide what to do, as well as answer several standardized questionnaires.

Chapter 8 goes into more detail regarding the experimental setup of this test, but first, the final information infrastructure used for testing is illustrated on the next page (image 45).

Information infrastructure

The figure below illustrates the infrastructure used to control the ridgeback and the visuals.

Image 45: Illustrations showing the infrastructure from the controller input up to the projector. On the left, the setup used during this experiment. On the right, the envisioned next step to make the setup more accurately respond to the AGVs direction

Controller input is picked up on the network. specific controller inputs are translated to TouchOSC messages using a python script. The TouchOSC messages are used to trigger images such as arrows.

This stream of video is sent to the projector mounted on the AGV.

This process was run on separated computers because of the practical availability of specialized software and operating systems but may be configured in a singular laptop instead.

In this envisioned next step, the arrow would be generated live based on the motor vectors of the Ridgeback.

The video is processed in two different software packages because Processing can renderer the arrow and Resolume can effectively apply the perspective warp as well as other effects.

The diagram on the right was envisioned but not executed. The COVID-19 crisis forced the experimentation to be executed in a remote fashion and live generation of the visuals was not required for creating the videos needed for remote testing.

Part 3

Validation

Chapter 8 Experiment setup

This chapter aims to explain the structure and setup of the formal experiment. In section 1 an overview is given, and the used questionnaires are explained. In section 2 the scenarios that were tested are explained.

8.1. Overview

Goal

The goal of this experiment is to see if there are merits to the use of projection-based visualization (Spatial Augmented Reality) of AGV's spatial intent. This is done by comparing the reactions to an AGV with a projected arrow to the reactions toward an AGV with no projection. The goal is to produce leads for design direction for the further development of this system and to see if any verifiable statistical relationships are present.

Experimental design

This experiment is conducted as a between-groups experimental design. A within-group design would lead to a significant learning effect and would enlarge the effect of demand characteristics (Participants guessing the goal of the experiment and altering their behavior because of this).

Participant selection

At least 20 participants will be needed for the main experiment (10 for each group). Whenever possible the participants will be distributed over the A and B groups based on age and gender. Age is the most important for the distribution because it is strongly correlated to technology aversion.

Pilot

A pilot will first be conducted with at least 3 participants to optimize the design of the experiment. For this pilot participants will be recruited that are knowledgeable about the project because they can not be used for the main experiment and because they can give more detailed feedback. During the pilot additional text boxes will be available at each step of the experiment to allow the pilot participants to leave additional feedback.

Questionnaires

See appendix C for the complete research questionnaire.

Preliminary questionnaire. Contains standard demographic questions. Additionally, questions are added to measure the participants' experience and affinity with technology because it is assumed that this may influence participants' approval of the demonstrated techniques.

Single Ease Question (SEQ). As the name implies this is a single question with a 7-point rating scale to assess how difficult users find a task. It performs well as a measure of usability even compared to more elaborate measures [75]. The SEQ is asked as the first question directly after the 'task' of viewing the video.

Response questions. The test was originally planned to be a lab experiment in which the response of the participants and their assessment of the situation could be observed by the researcher. In the new remote situation this information is found through these open questions (e.g. 'describe the action you will take at the end of the movie').

Situation Awareness Rating Technique (SART). A rating technique that was originally developed for the assessment of pilot situation awareness. It uses ten dimensions on a 7-point scale to calculate a standardized score [33]:

The final SART score is calculated using the following formula: $SA = U - (D - S)$, where:

- U = summed understanding
- D = summed demand

S = summed supply

The questionnaire used for this research was missing one question. Details on how this came to be and how it was handled can be read in chapter 11.1.

Nasa Task Load Index (TLX). A widely used assessment tool to measure workload. Seven dimensions are measured on a 21 point scale: Mental demand, physical demand, temporal demand, performance, effort, and frustration [76]. After data collection, the 21-point scale is changed to a 100-point scale for each dimension.

Short explanation of software used

Python script: this script uses the controller joystick input and sends one of five (OSC) messages every 50ms. Each message corresponds to a preset arrow (left, slightly left, forward, right, slightly right).

Touch OSC: Touch OSC is a standard for sending wireless messages mostly used to communicate between music or lighting devices. It can be used to control the projections with extremely low latency. It can be seen as a variation on the MIDI standard.

Processing: open source software that can generate live output based on a large variety of possible inputs. Here it would be used to generate an arrow visual (or other visuals) in real life.

Spout: software that acts as a bridge between software packages that generate pixel matrices. Here it is used to bring the output from processing into Resolume. (for macOS see Syphon for the same functionality).

Resolume Arena: Powerful software meant for VJs, video technicians, and video artists. It is included in this chain because it allows the researcher to change visual aspects on the fly, allowing for rapid iteration.

MiraCast: Essentially 'HDMI over Wifi'. It can send Full HD video with 30 frames per second wirelessly to a device on the same network. The network needs to be optimized to limit latency.

8.2. Scenarios

Scenario 1 – AGV turns left

Image 46: scenario 1, the pause signs indicate where the movie cuts off.

The participant and the AGV are moving toward each other. The AGV is about to turn left into the trajectory of the participant.

Scenario 2 – Diagonally behind the AGV

Image 47: scenario 2, the pause signs indicate where the movie cuts off.

The participant is walking diagonally behind the AGV. The participant is going faster than the AGV and will soon overtake the AGV.

Scenario 3 – You are in the way

Image 48: scenario 3, the video cuts off after the participant has seen the AGV.

The participant is stacking boxes. The AGV approaches and either indicates (condition B) or does not indicate (A) that the participant is in the planned trajectory (using a projected red blinking arrow).

Scenario 4 – AGV reaches goal

Image 49: scenario 4, the pause signs indicate where the movie cuts off.

The participant has the intention of going straight at the crossing. An AGV approaches from the right. The AGVs destination is just before the crossing so it intends to stop before it's trajectory ever crosses the intended walking path of the participant.

Other scenarios

The selected scenarios are the ones most frequently occurring in a factory environment and also the ones where the projections could be used to communicate spatial intent.

These scenarios were also filmed but not selected:

AGV standing still. The AGV would either indicate that it is at a loading dock or indicate that there is a problem that prevents it from moving. Designs for the projection were not tested or iterated in previous sessions.

Boxes are in the way. This is comparable with the content of scenario 3. Scenario 3 was chosen instead of this scenario because scenario 3 concerns the participant directly, soliciting a more immediate response.

Passing straight on. The AGV and the participant pass each other while going in opposite directions. The amount of interaction in this scenario is limited.
Chapter 9

Pilot

Before launching the main questionnaire, a pilot was held to see if participants understood the line of questioning. Finding technical mistakes within the questionnaire was also important. Another concern to be addressed was whether the participants experienced the questionnaire as too long.

The pilot questionnaire contained additional 'pilot boxes', open question boxes at the end of each page which allowed for feedback from the participant.

Responses

A total of 7 responses was recorded for the pilot. 4 participants filled in all questions with proper attention given to the content and line of questioning. The other 3 participants mostly checked for technical problems within the questionnaire.

- Age, gender, and country of origin are well spread.
- All pilot participants score high on affinity with technology.
- Experience with production environments, AGVs, and Augmented Reality is spread.

Changes and considerations

General

- Some text was made bold for emphasis, a short test with outsiders concluded this was a helpful graphical change.
- The total length of the questionnaire was deemed long. It was considered to shorten it by removing the TLX-questions, but this option was not taken because some researchers would like to have the results of the TLX nonetheless.

Synthesizing

- The videos were considered very short. A warning text was added to make sure participants are fully focused on the video before pressing play because the video may only be played once.
- The text explaining to the participant what the 'intention' is that he or she has in the video was confusing for some participants. It was confused with the intention of the robot. The text was reformulated to a 'task' description which also made answering the standardized questionnaire more natural. Especially the TLX strongly builds on the assumption that the user has just completed a task.

Questions

- Changed the phrasing of multiple questions in cases where pilot participants indicated confusion or ambiguity.
- One very important change was to supplement the text of the response questions with "*from your perspective*" to make the answers less ambiguous (especially the distinction between left and right matters here).
- Opinions differ about the formulation of the scale of the 'experience' questions. (preliminary questions). No changes were made because this scale is the most unambiguous option.
- Changed video game question (preliminary questions) to the same 7-point scale as the other 'experience' questions. Asking for the frequency of gaming can be misleading when users have game experience but do not frequently game currently.
- Reformulated questions about the experience to be more specific about the user being 'experienced in its use'.

Videos

- Changes were made to ensure that:
	- \circ The video cuts off before the participant can see what the AGV will do next.
	- o Videos between groups A and B are comparable in everything except the controlled condition. For example: equal factory audio was added to all videos.

NASA TLX

- Multiple participants indicated having problems answering the TLX questions. Because of this, the SEQ was added as an alternative in case the TLX did not return useful results.
- Question 2 of the TLX concerns physical demand. Since no physical activity is undertaken by the participant at all it was deemed necessary to remove the question.

SART

- The word '*aroused*' in question 4 was considered awkward by multiple pilot participants. It was also not interpreted with the right meaning by these participants. The word was replaced with '*alert*'.
- SART questions 6, 7, and 8 were deemed confusing by some participants. However, no changes were made to ensure the validity of the standardized test.

Results & Conclusions

In this chapter results and conclusions will be shown of the statistical analysis of the data gathered in the research. The structure will follow the structure of the research.

27 responses were received for group A but one entry was excluded because the participant seemed inattentive (seemingly random answers, quick completion time, and short open question answers), resulting in 26 responses for group A.

21 responses were received for group B.

The full data set produced by this research can be found in appendix E.

10.1 Single Ease Question (SEQ)

This question was asked directly after the movie of the scenario: *Overall, how difficult or easy was the task to complete?* The participant could respond on a 7-point scale with 1 meaning *very easy* and 7 meaning *very difficult*.

We can see that in scenarios 1, 2, and 3 the 'no projection'-group found the task more difficult on average.

A t-test points out that the positive effect of the projected arrows is significant in scenario 1 ($p =$ 0.003, MD = 1.313). Levene's test points out that for scenario 1 the variances cannot be assumed equal. In Scenario 4 the effect is negative but not significantly so ($p = 0.065$, MD = 0.978).

10.2 Response Questions

Analysis process

Questions 2, 3, and 4 for each scenario are open questions and therefor return qualitative results (labeled as '*RAW*' in the dataset). In order to do quantitative analysis all data was converted to more general categories first (In the dataset this is labeled as '*CAT'*). After that, every description was then classified again in order to fit within a 'verdict'. In question 2 (Q2), for example, we are interested in whether the participants can correctly guess the robots' next action or not (*correct* and *incorrect*) a third verdict, *don't know,* is used when the participant cannot give a clear answer. (Verdicts are labeled '*VERD'* in the dataset*)*

Assessment of the AGVs next action (Q2)

The second question after each scenario movie: *Describe what you think the robot will do at the end of the movie (please describe from the robot's perspective)*. This was an open question. Responses that accurately described the next action of the robot were deemed '*correct'*. If the participant could not give a clear answer it was labeled *'don't know'*. Everything else was labeled '*incorrect*'.

A Pearson Chi-Square test points out that in scenarios 1 and 2 the participants with projected arrows were significantly more often correct (p < 0.001.) We can see in the graph that scenario 3 and 4 that the group with projected arrows also scored more correct answers than incorrect but the difference is not significant (p=0.145 and p=0.051 respectively).

In Scenario 4 it seems particularly hard to assess the robots' next action for both conditions.

Action response of the participant (Q3)

The third question after each scenario movie: *Describe the action you will take at the end of the movie. (please describe this from your perspective).* This is an open question. When participants can not make a clear choice, it is labeled '*don't know'*. Desirable actions are labeled *desirable* while actions that might bring harm to the participant, AGV, or factory process are labeled '*not desirable'*. Actions that are neither are labeled *neutral*.

A Pearson Chi-Square test shows that the response from a participant that is shown projected arrows has a significantly higher chance of being correct in scenarios 1 and 4 ($p < 0.001$ and $p < 0.05$) respectively). Scenario 2 and 3 also show a positive effect from projected arrows but the effect is not significant (p=0.053 and p=0.157 respectively).

Experienced feeling (Q4)

The fourth question is: *How would you feel if you envision yourself in the situation shown in the movie?* This question required rigorous labeling. The first step was to label all emotions and feelings in the responses. These were then categorized into 26 groups (for example: *anxious, nervous,* and *worried* were grouped) these groups were deemed either positive, negative, or neutral. If a response counted multiple of these feelings, they were counted. If the positive emotions had the majority, it was labeled positive and the same for the negative emotions. A response is labeled neutral if there was an equal amount of positive and negative emotions.

In scenarios 3 and 4 we see more positive reactions in the projected arrows group. In scenarios 1 and 2 we see approximately the opposite. The difference in scenario 1 is the only one that is significant ($p < 0.05$).

Perceived certainty (Q5)

Question five is as follows: *How certain were you of the robot's next move?* Which the participants answer on a 7-point Likert-scale.

As can be suspected from the graph Levene's test points out that in scenario 3 the variances cannot be assumed equal. In scenarios 1, 2, and 3 we find that the projected arrows significantly improve the certainty experienced by the participant.

In scenario 1 with a p-value lower than 0.0001 and an effect size of 2.5 points

In scenario 2 with a p-value of 0.04 and an effect size of 1.5 points

In scenario 3 with a p-value of 0.01 and an effect size of 0f 1.9 points.

Perceived safety (Q6)

Question 6 concerns perceived safety: *How safe did you feel in the situation?* Again, the participants are asked to answer on a 7-point Likert scale.

Only scenario 1 yields a significant effect (p < 0.005, MD = 1.3). Interestingly in scenarios 3 and 4 there is a tendency toward a reversed effect: the projection seems to lower the perceived safety, although the difference is not significant ($p > 0.05$).

10.3 Situation Awareness Rating Technique (SART)

The calculation of the SART score is explained in chapter 8.1. Discussion on the validity of our execution of the SART score can be read in chapter 11.2.

The situation awareness is higher for the participants with projected arrows in all scenarios, but this effect is only significant for Scenario 3 ($p = 0.0037$, MD = 1.2) and is leaning toward significance in scenario 2 ($p = 0.07$, MD = 1.1).

The strongest effect is measured in SART question 8: *How much information have you gained about the situation? Have you received and understood a great deal of knowledge (High) or very little (Low)?.* On average (all scenarios included) participants that are shown projected arrows score 1.2 points higher on this question than participants that are shown no arrows. The effect is significant in scenarios 1, 2 and 3 ($p < 0.01$)

10.4 NASA Task Load Index (TLX)

The calculation of the NASA TLX score is explained in chapter 8.1.

The t-test points out that none of the differences between the A and B groups are significant. It could be concluded that the projected arrows bear no influence on the experienced task load of the participants.

10.5 Post Test Questionnaire (PTQ)

After all scenarios and associated questions have been handled the participants see a movie showing both conditions (projected arrows and no projection) next to each other.

They are then asked 4 questions to be answered on a 7-point Likert scale with 1 meaning *disagree* and 7 meaning *agree*.

Since both the A and B groups get the same question with the same movie (see image 50) there should be no significant difference between the groups. A T-test points out that this is correct.

Image 50: screenshot from the movie shown during the last part of the research.

The results are highly favorable toward the projected arrows. However, the participants by now have most probably understood that the researcher is the one designing this system. It may therefore very well be that these answers are simply meant to pander to the researcher.

10.6 Technological affinity

Using preliminary questions PQ5, PQ6, and PQ7 (*How familiar are you with smartphone / desktop computer/video games)* a score was calculated and labeled TAS (Technology Affinity Score). We wanted to see if this score correlates with any performance scores such as the SART or TLX

and SEQ for all tasks. A Pearson's correlation test was executed. Aside from a weak correlation (Correlation = 0.362, p = 0.012) with the SART score of task 3 no correlations were found. Leading us to conclude that the technological affinity of the participants did not influence the test results in this setup.

Image 51: figure showing the correlation between the Technological Affinity Score and the Situation Awareness Rating of the third scenario.

10.7 Experience with technology

Using preliminary questions PQ8, PQ9 and PQ10 (*How much experience do you have with AGVs / production environments / AR)* an average score was calculated and labeled FES (Familiarity & Experience Score).

We wanted to see if this score correlates with any performance scores such as the SART, TLX, or SEQ using a Pearson's correlation test. Apart from a weak correlation between FES and the SART score of task 3 (Correlation = 0.291, $p = 0.047$) no correlations between FES and other parameters were found leading us to conclude that familiarity and experience with technology do not significantly influence the results in this test setup.

10.8 Summary of Results

The most relevant and significant results of this research:

- Projected arrows made scenario 1 significantly easier to assess as evident from the SEQ.
- Assessment of the robot's actions (Q2) was improved in all scenarios. In scenarios 1 and 2, the chance of a participant correctly assessing the robot rose dramatically when the projected arrows were used. Participants also had a heightened certainty of this assessment in scenarios 1, 2, and 3. In scenarios 1 and 3 this relationship was very significant.
- Projected arrows increased the chance of a participant taking a desirable spatial action in all scenarios.
- Emotional responses greatly differed. Anxiety was an often-reported emotion especially in scenario 3.
- The Post Test Questionnaire indicated that:
	- Participants find the projected arrows helpful in understanding the situation
	- Participants think the arrows are needed to understand the situation
	- Participants are confident in the situation because of the projected arrows
	- Participants do not think the projected arrows are distracting
- As evident from SART question 8, the project arrows caused the participants to gain more information about the situation in scenarios 1, 2 and 3. The average score was 1.2. points higher than for participants that are shown no projection.

Please see next page for scenario-specific descriptions

Scenario 1

Projected arrows made the situation significantly easier to assess (Q2, Q3). Participants also experienced that this assessment was easier to make (SEQ, Q5). Participants felt safer because of the projected arrows (Q6) but were more likely to feel negative emotions (Q4).

Scenario 3

The projected flashing red arrow increased anxiety (Q4) and made the participant feel unsafe (Q6). However, it did very clearly communicate the robots next action (Q2) and increased the participants situation awareness (SART). It made participants more certain of the next action of the AGV (Q5).

Scenario 2

Projected arrows greatly increased the chance the participant could correctly assess the robots next action (Q2). Participants also experienced that this assessment was easier to make (Q5) and it did provoke a (non-significant) rise in situation awareness (SART).

Scenario 4

The projected visualisation made a (nonsignificant) positive impact on the experienced ease of the task (SEQ). This is confirmed by the fact that participants significantly more often took desirable action (Q3). However, it did provoke more negative emotions such as anxiety (Q4) and might lower perceived safety (Q6) compared to the situation without projection. The results indicate that the design confuses the participants and does not clearly communicate that the robot is about to stop.

10.9 Conclusions

In the previous chapters, statistical results are presented at length, but the question remains what this means for the industry, the concept of the smart factory, and for the merits of spatial AR applied in this manner and context. The results seem to indicate great potential for SAR within smart factories with a high degree of cooperation or coexistence between mobile robots and humans.

The results indicate that the projected visualizations have a risk of inciting anxiety in the users. Although we suspect that training and habituation can greatly lower the occurrence of this anxiety, it should also be noted that future development should involve special attention toward making the visualizations consistent and calm.

Edge-cases such as scenarios 3 and 4 need to be better explored so more effective visualizations can be created. Training can help workers properly understand the visualizations in these more exceptional cases.

In the most regularly occurring cases (such as scenarios 1 and 2) where the main communication concerns the projected arrow, the SAR setup provides an intuitive way for workers to quickly assess the robot's movement intention. In terms of subjective measurements, the projected arrows seem to positively influence the situation awareness, although this relation is only significant in scenario 3. Furthermore, the perceived safety is increased. In terms of objective measurements, the projected arrows lead to a far better assessment of the robots' actions and lead to a far greater chance of humans taking actions that are desirable for themselves and the factory. In the factory, this can lead to a decrease in incidents involving AGVs and an increase in worker wellbeing because both the experienced and the real safety are improved.

Applying this technique may mean that AGVs could now be applied in industrial situations that were previously considered unfit for AGV installations. This would accelerate the progress toward the factory 4.0 paradigm.

Chapter 11

Discussion

11.1 Remote testing

As discussed earlier in this report the experiment had to be executed remotely because of the 2020 COVID-19 crisis. Because the entire testing experience is virtual, control over the participant is limited. He or she can for example watch videos multiple times or be less attentive. The time the participants uses for the experiment could not be measured with the used survey tool (Google form).

Because of the use of videos, participants feel less immersed in the situation and the videos are barren of external stimuli.

A positive aspect of the use of videos is that they could be more easily controlled. Manual operation would have created variations in the exact path and speed of the AGV.

11.2 Validity of the data

Response Questions

Labeling qualitative data is a tedious process, but in the end, this seems to be the data showing the strongest results. From the open feedback questions, it can be concluded that participants had a lot of trouble 'roleplaying' the feelings they were asked for in the SART and TLX questionnaires. However, providing their own response to the situation and assessing the robot's actions seem to come more easily to the participants. This is also evident from the low amount of data that needed to be labeled '*don't know*'.

SART

The data collected through the situation awareness rating technique is useful to some degree.

A major problem with the execution of the SART is that one dimension *(information quality)* is missing. Many sources online seem to spread an image that is missing this dimension. Regrettably, the questionnaire was adapted from one such image.

The 'information quality' was removed from the calculation that defines the SART score. The SART scores can be compared amongst themselves within this research but do not account for the dimension that concerns the quality of information. Furthermore, the SART scores in this research are not comparable to other researches. The scores now have a range between -5 and 13.

NASA TLX

One question was removed from the TLX for this research (*How physically demanding was the task?)* The five remaining dimensions contribute equally and the scores from separate tasks can be compared to each other. But because of the excluded question, the results cannot be compared to other researches where the NASA TLX was deployed.

NASA TLX concerns tasks. Watching a movie can not truly be considered a task. It requires a lot from the participants' imagination to imagine all the types of strain and workload. Because the NASA TLX builds on participants' experience of the workload rather than their imagination of it, this resulted in the participants not knowing what information to give. This is also evident from the relatively high variance in the data. In hindsight, this method should not have been deployed in this remote setting.

Visualizations of scenario 3 and 4

The results indicate that the visualizations designed for scenario 3 and 4 did not properly communicate the status quo and intent of the AGV or that the visualization would otherwise negatively affect the participant.

The values for T3TLX5 show that the flashing red arrow in scenario 3 is evaluated as frustrating. And the results from Q4 show that scenario 3 and 4 made participants anxious.

Image 52: (left) Scenario 3 visualization (rIght) Scenario 4 visualisation.

Post-test questionnaire

By the end of the post-test questionnaire, many participants might have figured out what the research intention of the research is. The results here might therefore be strongly influenced by participants pandering to the researcher.

Technological Affinity

The questions that were included to measure technological affinity and experience were improvised without proper academic reference. In the future, a standardized and verified test might be used such as the ATI scale (Affinity for Technology Interaction scale) [77].

11.3 Benchmark selection

The decision to execute the research remotely was hastily taken because of the COVID-19 situation developing in April 2020. Because it was uncertain if the lab would remain open, a plan to film the required materials was made and executed within a 20-hour period.

Regretfully this resulted in filming the two conditions as they are described in this research. The ridgeback AGV (like most AGVs) has indicator lights that are used in a comparable fashion in cars. In hindsight testing the projected arrows against a benchmark of the integrated turning indicator lights would have been far more meaningful.

However, even if this realization had come in time it would not have been possible to film the movies with indicator lights on short notice because:

- We did not yet get the indicator lights working.
- We did not obtain detailed information regarding the behavior of the indicator light in the industrial setting.

11.4 Practical design limitations

The way that the projector is rigged to the AGV causes a practical problem. In the Magna factory, a pallet is picked up by an AGV in a special pick-up station. They enter the station on one side and exit it on the other. The projector rigging would block the AGV from entering the pick-up station.

Image 53: The AGV enters a special pick-up dock from one side (1) and then continues out on the other side (2).

This could be solved by developing an ultra-short-throw projector that can be implemented at a height of 20cm from the projection canvas. If optical lenses are developed specifically for this application, it would be possible. It does need to be noted that this will cause ridges and debris on the floor to cast large shadows in the projection, making it unfit for brownfield applications.

A secondary option is to change the pickup behavior so the AGV enters and leaves on the same side of the pick-up station. This could be implemented without costly development, but it might delay the pick-up process. This design restriction does not apply when machinery is permanently fixed upon the AGV as is the case for the 'Mobile Manipulator', a robot arm installed on top of an AGV.

Part Design and Research Opportunities Chapter 12

Design Opportunities

During the runtime of this project and as a result of the research described in chapters 9, 10, and 11, multiple design opportunities were identified that would capitalize on the projected Spatial Augmented Reality setup. In this chapter, these opportunities are explained and in some cases examples of designs are given. The solutions go beyond the scope of this project but are provided so they might inspire future design efforts.

Presence acknowledgment

Participants and visitors to the lab often expressed doubts concerning the question 'whether the robot has seen them'. In day to day interactions and in traffic, humans use cues to acknowledge each other and this creates a high certainty regarding the question of whether he or she has been seen. The projection may very well be used to accommodate this acknowledgment (see image 54).

Image 54: The AGV projects an indicator that points toward obstructions that the AGV (through the SLAM system) has identified as human. This will communicate to the human workers that the AGV has 'seen' them and that it will plan its route accordingly. The design may vary to indicate more information such as the proximity of the human or it's assumed walking direction.

Contextually dependency

Image 55: Illustration showing the ways that contextual relevance can function as a filter for the shown information

Considering that the AGVs operate in a factory that has a digital twin, a lot of information is known about its environment. The context can be made to function as both a filter and a means to prioritize the information that passes the filter. There is a lot of information that could be shown, too much to practically comprehend. The concept behind the application of contextual relevance is to use factors of the context as a filter for which information to show and which information to exclude. If multiple pieces of information are still to be shown, then the context should provide a means to prioritize the information. Some examples:

- **User:** e.g. Maintenance workers may require different information than forklift drivers;
- **Spatial:** The visualization as it is shown from far away may evolve to give more details once it comes closer to the observer;
- **Spatial:** The visualization could adapt to the viewing point of the user, so the visualization is always 'right side up' and readable.
- **Extended context:** Information regarding the role of the AGV in a multi-AGV coupling can be given (see image 56):

Image 56: As the AGVs prepare for a collaborative operation they show their respective roles.

• **Spatial:** Breaking zones may be shown when the AGV is speeding. The zones would extend when the AGV is moving fast and would disappear as the AGV slows down (see image 57).

Image 57: A visualization of breaking-zones.

Multimodal interaction

Image 58: An illustration showing the different modalities in which humans and AGVs could potentially communicate.

This project has specifically focused on visual information from the AGV to the user. However, other modes of communication could improve the interaction and create a more effective, safer, and more user-friendly environment. For example: audio signals from the AGV could prove useful in situations where the user is not facing the AGV (like scenario 3 in the experiment). Another example is that users could use voice commands to engage with the AGV.

Spatial communication of spatial intent of robot arms

Once the AGV is outfitted with a projector, the same concept could be extended to other machinery in the factory. The projected information could for example also be used to show the spatial intentions of s robotic manipulator arm mounted on an AGV.

Image 59: The projection may be used to visualize the motions of a robot arm as well.

Projecting on the environment

In the hectic factory environment, the AGV can often run into obstructions it can not surpass. By projecting directly on these obstructions, it can clearly communicate to its human co-workers what the problem is. This will also assist in troubleshooting situations where the AGV perceives objects that are not actually there (for example due to a sensor malfunction).

Image 60: the AGV indicates where it has observed an obstruction.

Evaluation

Spatial Augmented Reality can help with evaluating the performance of an AGV system because it is easier to connect the actions of the robots to its perception. After all, the perception is spatially visualized in real-time.

Image 61: Video by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. [78] *In this setup the behavior of robots is evaluated within a modeled city. A fully projected environment visualizes the available data in real-time allowing researchers to quickly see mismatches between the real model and the robots' interpretation of it.*

Research Opportunities

13.1 Potential research

The experimental setup as described in chapter 8 could be repeated but with some key changes to make the results more valuable for industrial application and academic discourse and to iterate on the findings in this report.

- Interviews should be held with multiple types of factory workers within their working context. The goal would be to find which design opportunities (see chapter 12) facilitate their information need best and which interaction scenarios are most likely to occur. This information can then be used to create realistic scenarios and design the visualizations and behavior exhibited by the AGV in that scenario.
- Specifically, better visualizations are needed for more complex scenarios such as 3 and 4. The research results indicate that the visualizations did not properly communicate the current status and intent of the AGV. This should be done in an iterative fashion first (using the Rapid Iterative Testing and Evaluation (RITE) method) to find a good design before doing academic measurements. The effect of training personnel to interpret visualizations in these rarer cases could also be researched.
- The experiments should be executed in a lab environment with a real AGV. This will improve how realistic the testing environment is, which will improve the reliability of standardized scores such as the SART. Also, this will give the researcher more control over the testing environment.
- The experiment described in this report used two groups: 'Projected arrows' and 'no projection'. In a future experiment, the 'no projection' should be replaced. AGVs in factories use signal lights to communicate their intent. This would provide a more realistic real-world benchmark to test against.

AGV installation experts should be consulted to verify whether the behavior of the lights in the experiment is representative of the behavior in a factory.

Image 62: Most AGV's (like this ridgeback AGV) that are used in a factory context have indicator lights just like cars. They are used to communicate intent or the robot's current status.

- As described in the discussion (chapter 11) the NASA TLX did not seem to produce reliable data on account of the remote testing. A pilot for these experiments should focus on finding out whether this improves when the scenarios are enacted in a lab environment. In addition, the complete SART question list should be used.
- To measure the technological affinity of the participants a standardized test should be used such as the 'Affinity for Technology Interaction (ATI) Scale' [79]. This way the technological affinity of the participants can be compared to other researches or to the average technological affinity of the target user group.

Other proposed research

- The concept of 'presence acknowledgment (see chapter 12) could be evaluated to see if it lowers the participants experienced anxiety. It is suspected that this method, if designed properly, can greatly help improve the participants' trust in the workplace robots.
- The evaluations described in this report are all based on first impressions; the participants have no experience with the situation they are exposed to (AGV with projections). In reality, factory workers will be trained to interpret the AGV's communications and to communicate back adequately whenever needed and they will quickly grow experienced in this interaction.

Although first impression research can tell us a lot about the successfulness of the design efforts it does not fully account for the expert roll that the real users have and although experience and training will generally mean that the AGVs communication will be more easily correctly interpreted it also increases the demands and expectations the user has regarding the interaction. A follow-up research in which participants are either trained or experienced in the interaction would be a logical next step to see how the design fares with these users.

13.2 Solution Spaces Chart as a tool for framing research efforts

The image seen below (image 63) is the 3-dimensional chart that was used in chapter 6 to define potential solution spaces for AR innovation in the smart factory environment.

This chart may be used to communicate the position of a research project and help it to achieve a narrow scope. For example, this may be used for research within the TU Delft. Research efforts that fall within the same solution space could be connected to share insights and tools. The three dimensions of the chart could easily be expanded if needed.

Image 63: Solution spaces chart with three dimensions: Application context (y-axis), Technological framework (x-axis), and Industry state (three options within each cell). The green cells are the ones that were considered 'fertile' for design innovation within this project. This will need to be reconsidered for each project individually.

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Closing Statements

Having to finish this graduation thesis in a time which can easily be described as turbulent for both myself personally as well as the world as a whole, has been an enormously educational experience. I realize this especially when I look back upon the steps I've taken during this project and consider all the things I would now do differently. I believe this signifies both the experience I have since gained as well as the knowledge still to be obtained.

I sincerely hope this project may provide some guidance to other future projects such as the 'AR cockpit with transparent screen' -project which was executed as part of the AED course (Advanced Embodiment Design) and in this way generate matches between augmented reality and the smart manufacturing environment. A matchmaking process that I sincerely believe will produce a variety of innovations that will prove to be beneficial to the manufacturing context and the humans that work in it.

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Appendix

Appendix A

Original Design Brief

Please state the title of your graduation project (above) and the start date and end date (below). Keep the title compact and simple. Do not use abbreviations. The remainder of this document allows you to define and clarify your graduation project.

start date 06 - 05 - 2019

project title

25 - 10 - 2019 end date

INTRODUCTION **

Please describe, the context of your project, and address the main stakeholders (interests) within this context in a concise yet

CURRENT STATUS: Automated Ground Vehicles (AGVs) are autonomously functioning vehicles often used in factory context for transport. The new generation of AGVs are no longer predictable, train-like vehicles, but quite literally have a mind of their own. The dialogue between machine and men needs to be properly facilitated otherwise the AGVs are perceived as unpredictable by the human operators and thereforecreate physical danger. An additional problem is, that supervisors lose the overview of the swarm of AGVs.

The supervisory operator is currently using desktop applications to read out the sensor data from vehicles and associated hardware. Multiple screens are used to display the information and keyboard and mouse are used for input. The information is plenty and complex but should primarily provide three insights: what has the fleet done, what is it doing and what is it going to do. When errors occur the operator should guickly be able to understand the problem that was created and provide input to solve it.

The information complexity in both of these situations could be improved using AR solutions that provide a better flow of information within the factory. AR solutions will become more prevalent in the future, but not all contexts allow the usage of head-mounted displays. Spatial AR utilizes only hardware that is external to the user and offers many advantages in terms of ergonomics and communication between humans.

PROJECT CONTEXT: The specific context for this research is applying Spatial Augmented Reality to improve situation awareness of autonomous factory transport. The project is conducted in cooperation with the TU Delft faculty of Industrial Design Engineering, the SAM XL lab in Delft and Magna Steyr in Austria. Problems in the factory working place are derived from high information complexity. AR offers the means to filter and provide contextually specific information. This fits within a broader perspective of applying AR in complex work environments to relieve human operators (more about my vision on complexity in the personal project brief).

OVERALL OBJECTIVE: The first objective is to analyze the interactions between factory supervisors and the AGVs. Focus will lie on interactions that are A. the most critical B. have the most potential for improvement, and C. are most susceptible to a design solution using Augmented Reality. This design solution should improve the situational awareness of the human controller, reduce risk and increase performance and employee wellbeing. The merits of applying spatial AR will be researched for this purpose.

MAIN STAKEHOLDERS: Magna Stevr smart factory in Austria. SAMIXL Lab and it's associated partners. The TU Delft, specifically the faculty of Industrial Design Engineering and the Applied Labs. The stakeholders all expect insights into the application of AR in a complex workplace. They wish to learn what impact AR can have in this context in its current technology level but also it's potential for future development when AR has become more socially acceptable, has been further developed to make it deployable for a broad range of applications and will be more affordable. LIMITATIONS AND CONSIDERATIONS: There are also certain limitations that should be kept in mind. AR is a rapidly developing technology, this means that discoveries and insights may quickly become deprecated or design solutions may become obsolete when solved by other technological means. Therefore I will not only try to demonstrate the merits of AR in this specific use case but also outline more general insights for the application of AR in complex work environments. Many teams working on the development have a computer science or robotics background and will have a strong focus on data structures and efficiency optimizations. I will attempt to complement this by applying a human-centered approach to my design work, using metrics that allow the effect of these efforts on humans to be measured.

space available for images / figures on next page

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Initials & Name __

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introduction (continued): space for images

image / figure 1: Two potential contexts for the applied spatial AR, both in a factory with autonomous vehicles

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PROBLEM DEFINITION **

Tho DEFIN DET INTITY.
Limit and define the scope and solution space of your project to one that is manageable within one Master Graduation Project of 30
EC (= 20 full time weeks or 100 working days) and clearly indicate wh

SOLUTION SPACE

The first phase of the project will concern indexing the responsibilities and challenges of the fleet supervisors and the current state of AR application. The solution space is where appropriate AR technology and the appropriate context meet. A profound contextual inquiry at the beginning is required, to find those opportunities. This contextual inquiry will take place during our planned visit to Magna Steyr (10.09 until 12.9). The analysis phase will be used to narrow the solution space down, so that the conceptualization will either focus on the information complexity facing the workfloor operator or the information complexity facing the supervisory operator. A UI framework or interface prototype will be designed using existing AR development tools (such as Unity AR / VR). **LIMITATIONS**

There is limited access to the context of use. I will need to prepare properly to make the most of the contact moments. At this moment a lot of assumptions are made about the operators and their responsibilities, problems and interactions with the AGVs. Before doing the contextual inquiry it is unclear exactly at what place in the factory process the most improvement can be achieved. Multiple issues still persist within the concept of a Smart Factory. A lot of these issues will need to be assumed fixed in order to focus on the problems with the user-robot interaction. The project will not address associated AR challenges such as tracking, calibration, the display technique itself, graphics rendering and information processing.

ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED: Sensory and mental overload of the supervisor needs to be limited, mission-critical information needs to delivered to the appropriate agent with a high degree of reliability. Other communications and processes in the factory should not be obstructed in any way.

ASSIGNMENT **

out in "problem definition". Then illustrate this assignment by indicating what kind of solution you expect and / or aim to deliver, for instance: a product, a product-service combination, a strategy illustrated through product or product-service combination ideas, In

This project will identify (Spatial) AR solutions, that are suited to facilitate the interaction with an AGV (autonomous guided vehicle) swarm in a smart factory setting. The focus is to identify problems experienced by factory supervisors such as information overload or lack of oversight, and to design a AR user interface solution, that will increase situation awareness

Title of Project

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PLANNING AND APPROACH **

Include a Gantt Chart (replace the example below - more examples can be found in Manual 2) that shows the different phases of your project, deliverables you have in mind, meetings, and how you plan to spend your time. Plea

800

The image above is a global planning which will be subject to change and will be accompanied by more detailed planning-documents, which will be proposed to the graduation team at the start of each phase. These planning documents will contain day-to-day activities.

In discussion with my graduation team we have agreed on a 32 hour a week workload for 25 weeks to fulfill the 800 hours. I would prefer to schedule short meetings on a bi-weekly basis with my mentor.

DELIVERABLES:

- Research report, to be discussed at the end of Phase 1. This includes test results and interpretation of these results.

- Ideation summary. Summarizing the process and results of the ideation phase (to be discussed in phase 2).

- Concept presentation. Summarizing the process and results of the concept phase including prototypes and testing.
- A final report containing all information above. A preliminary version to be discussed during the green light meeting. - Summarizing sheet as specified in the 'deliverables document'.
-

- Demonstration of the final selected concept. This may be a prototype or video depending on the outcome.

RESOURCES:

Personal Project Brief - IDE Master Graduation

MOTIVATION AND PERSONAL AMBITIONS

Explain why you set up this project, what competences you want to prove and learn. For example: acquired competences from your
MSc programme, the elective semester, extra-curricular activities (etc.) and point out the comp

MOTIVATION

Vision: We live in world that is not only increasing in complexity but this increment is accelerating exponentially. My grandmother got out of touch with technology when she was 60, my parents lost track when they were 40 and sadly it does not look like this acceleration will be more kind to my generation.

Not only technology itself is accelerating in complexity, it also allowing other aspects of our experienced world to 'complexify'. Technology has added value but also complexity to our social relations, politics and economics in more ways than I can describe here.

Designers should adopt the role of quide for other people to deal with this ever increasing complexity.

Augmented Reality as a concept has the potential to change the way we relate to technological development and the potential to untangle much of the complexity it accompanies.

The technology itself provides the absolute bridge between technological world and the 'real' world as we experience it every day.

COMPETENCES

Experience with projection mapping and prototyping using (a simulated) spatial augmented reality A strong visual and graphical background in both academic as industrial sense. A good understanding and experience in the design of classical user interfaces.

LEARNING GOALS

I believe augmented reality has the potential to be a very prevalent technology in our future and as a designer I wish to learn how to harness this potential to make meaningful and functional user interfaces that improve the context of use. Furthermore, I wish to become more experienced in the work context where academics and industry work together. (such as the Sam | XL Lab)

CHALLENGES AND CONSIDERATIONS

The project will contain the development of prototypes that will need to be developed in Unity. The project may have the tendency to lean more toward development than toward design. I will need to deploy proper expectation management to ensure all stakeholders expect a design solution rather than a solution in code.

The content matter of the project could be easily expanded to a PhD-sized project. I will need to take care that the problem definition and solution spaces become specified enough to restrain me to a specific design problem and stay near the 800 hour limit.

FINAL COMMENTS

It's hard trying to outline my entire graduation and although orientation on the process is very useful I will also remain opportunistic and flexible, stirring my graduation in the direction that seems most fruitful while at the same time staying within the outline discussed in this document.

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Key Insights

AGV prototypes

The Smart Factory team has created 3 AGV prototypes of which the last one is ready for use in a real The lighting system used in prototype 3.0 covers a wide range of necessary Human-Computer manufacturing context.

Opportunities: interactions.

- Sound is not yet used for communication between AGV and worker
- desktop application. Such as screen can be usefull for workers that require more detailed The first prototype contained a screen for showing sensor info, error states and other metrics. Prototype 3.0 no longer contains a screens. This information is found on the information about a AGV (current task, error state etc.) $\ddot{}$

The AGV uses depth sensors to sense if an obstruction is nearby. If the obstruction is in the warning zone the AGV will slow down. If the object enters the Stop zone the AGV will make an emergency The AGV can be outfitted with different addons (robot arm, storage rack or a euro pallet lift) stop.

The AGV uses SLAM for navigation in combination with InCubed software. The SLAM information is shared with the central server so a real-time map of the factory is build which all AGVs can use.

Industry State

Apart from the industry 4.0 paradigm there is also a vision of the 'all-factory', a highly flexible factory floor on which all machinery and parts are transported by or mounted on AGVs. All hardware is only Many OEMs are researching technologies that allow for industry 4.0 integration. The way that these technologies are implemented will greatly influence the role of the AGV and the way it is controlled. present where and when it is needed. New technological integrations are needed to make this a reality. Innovations such as AR, VR, AI, IoT, predictive maintenance can help. Magna has already successfully utilized a large range of these technologies in real cases:

- Product impression in VR (showing customers and clients cars in a VR environment)
- Ergonomics evaluation in VR (Video showed a woman sitting in a car seat. The car around her in virtual reality can be sliced to show the locations and ergonomics of the car.
- documentation. Automatically run down the checklist. Reducing errors. ("digitally enhanced MR: quality control. Going through the checklist with an AR headset on. Ouick access to Walkthrough of a production set with the client (the manufacturing and assembly line)
- Magna meeting space with 3 integrated projectors. Large central touch screen. For clients and suppliers as well. Engineered towards effective meetings. first part release")

The amount of sensor data collected in the factory is already enough to allow for a digital twin to be constructed. This amount of data can be used to have the system present decision makers supervisors) with actionable information.

allow groups of AGVs to transport larger units such as complete cars. This is however not currently a he CoCoAs project proposal specifically mentions the development of swarm behaviour that will development priority.

Current AGV implementation

An AGV brings car seats from one side of the assembly line to the other, greatly increasing efficiency and reducing costs. The AGV is alone and mostly isolated from the other subsystems of the factory. t's behaviour is simple and predictable and only deviates if a worker enters its direct surroundings. (a more detailed look on this can be found in 'Industry state - current') The factory currently has a layout that is similar to a district with streets. Vehicles keep right and can not deviate far from their planned route. In a context like this the usefulness of autonomous wayfinding is limited. Obstructions are very temporary.

n the "all factory" however, the street layout will disappear, and the layout will be in a state of continues change. Adaptive wayfinding will then be essential for the efficiency of the AGV. Mhen working with humans accuracy is not essential. If an AGV for example needs to deliver a box of parts the human will not mind or notice if the box is placed 30cm to the left.

More information needed:

- The role of the supervisor is essential for the AGV ecosystem. We have limited information about the work environment of the supervisor.
- The factory is currently making a transition from human forklift operators to AGVs. In order to support this transition, the project team requires more information about the way tasks are distributed and communicated to the forklift operators

Appendix B

Prototype 2.0

(only 1 axis). The screen shows information Has a chair on it and 2 joysticks for control about battery, state, safety area + obstacle Was mainly used to test hardware like suspension, motor, stress-testing etc. area)

vehicle and not the torque exerted by the rather difficult and sensitive to the input. The joysticks control the speed of the drive. This makes the manual control

Prototype 2 provided a better understanding of the AGV behaviour and specific hardware such as the motor.

Prototype 3.0

 $2 \, \text{m/s}$

connection points
for addon
modules

- Free navigation
- 200 kg own weight
	- 500 kg load
- Safety sensors at both ends.
- 2 batteries, can be expanded Kinematic suspension
	- to 4 batteries.

LED strip
Orawa AGV

It can charge at 60A, but they

Proximity Sevisor

- 4 6 hours of use. But the usecharge it at 20A
	- cases right now are built in a

way that the AGV always turns back to a charging station during short breaks in it's routine. It takes around 1 hour to charge. Design Challenge: where will these charging stations be most efficiently integrated.

Prototype 3.0 has a modular setup. Different addons can be put up the base unit.

Full research questionnaire

Appendix C

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Midterm Evaluation Form

The Midterm Evaluation Form

>> Complete the form to prepare for the midterm evaluation, and send it to your supervisors, at least 3 days prior to your midterm evaluation session. <<

¹ A short indication of your thoughts and considerations with regard to the graduation project up till now. ² Learning objectives are to be found in the Course Manual, and in the IDE Study guide.

The project has been delayed. The planning will need to be revised. A new planning is added in the appendix. **Final arrangements** <describe here the agreed on new arrangements, to be filled in during/after meeting> team wants to continue the project with then ne Weekly email updates will report on the progress toward a finished analysis report The student will start practical work such as unity development simultaneous to finishing the analysis report. Signatures (name, date and signature of student, chair and mentor) Name chair: Doris Aschenbrenner Name mentor: Zoltán Rusák Name student: Martijn Verbeij Date: $27 - 01 - 2020$ Date: $27 - 1 - 2020$ Date: $27 - 01 - 2020$

At the end of the Midterm Evaluation meeting: Please hand-in the filled-in form on Brightspace, upload to 'IDE Master Graduation Project' organisation.

Appendix E

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