Usability and User Experience Questionnaire Evaluation and Evolution for Touchable Holography

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Abstract: Augmented and Mixed Reality enables applications where users engage in natural hand interactions, simulating touch, termed touchable holography solutions (THS). These applications are achievable through head-mounted displays and are helpful in training, equipment control, and entertainment. Usability and User eXperience (UX) evaluations are crucial for ensuring the quality and appropriateness of THS, yet many are assessed using non-specific technologies. The UUXE-ToH questionnaire was proposed and subjected to expert study for content and face validity to address this gap. This study enhances questionnaire credibility and acceptance by identifying clarity issues, aligning questions with study theory, and reducing author-induced bias, offering an effective and cost-efficient approach. The study garnered numerous contributions that were analyzed qualitatively and processed to refine the questionnaire. This paper introduces the UUXE-ToH in its initial version, details expert feedback analysis, outlines the methodology for incorporating suggestions, and presents the enhanced version, UUXE-ToH v2. This evidence-based process contributes to a better understanding of usability and UX evaluation in the THS context. UUXE-ToH can impact the quality of life of users of solutions applied to education, health, and entertainment by helping develop better products.

1 INTRODUCTION

Touchable holography, an innovative technology facilitating gesture and mid-air touch interaction by projecting digital content into the natural environment (Kervegant et al., 2017), is experiencing rapid evolution alongside advancements in Augmented Reality (AR) and Mixed Reality (MR). The Microsoft Hololens™ and Meta Quest3™ exemplify this progress, enabling users to engage with holograms through hand gestures and contributing to the emergence of Touchable Holographic Solutions (THS). This paradigm shift eliminates traditional screens, introducing novel approaches like head-mounted displays and touch interactions without physical feedback. Regardless of the display technology, holograms emulate real-world entities, responding to gaze, gestures, and voice commands (Microsoft Inc, 2022). The seamless integration of synthetic elements blurs the boundary between the real and virtual worlds in AR and MR, enhancing user experiences. Touchable holograms find diverse applications, from equipment control to entertainment, utilizing natural and flexible interactions facilitated by gesture-based interfaces, encompassing pointing, pantomimic, and manipulation gestures (Aigner et al., 2012). Holography’s absence of haptic feedback is a notable drawback, but ongoing efforts to enhance audiovisual feedback and explore air-based solutions show promise for natural touch simulation.

Ensuring the effectiveness of THS demands a comprehensive evaluation, focusing on both Usability and User eXperience (UX). Usability assesses the ease of use (Nielsen, 2012), effectiveness, efficiency, and satisfaction of using an artifact with a specific purpose and context (ISO, 2018). UX is a person’s quality of experience when interacting with the interactive artifact (Hassenzahl, 2011). UX focuses on user preferences, perceptions, emotions, and physical and psychological responses that occur before, during, and after use (Bevan et al., 2015).

Recognizing the absence of dedicated evaluation technologies for THS, a Systematic Mapping Study (SMS) conducted by Campos et al. (2023) high-
lighted the reliance on multiple generic tools, such as the System Usability Scale (SUS) (Brooke, 1996) and User Experience Questionnaire (UEQ) (Laugwitz et al., 2008). Most THS studies used at least three existing questionnaires. However, these don’t fully cover unique aspects of AR/MR, like immersion and presence. Combining multiple evaluation technologies may confuse users and cause overlapping of assessed aspects. To address this gap, we proposed the “Usability and UX Evaluation in Touchable Holograms (UUXE-ToH)” questionnaire, composed of objective sentences and open-ended questions to cover the evaluation of the main aspects of usability and UX, including dimensions of AR/MR.

New technologies should undergo initial studies to identify strengths, limitations, and challenges, contributing to technique refinement before industry adoption (Shull et al., 2001). For survey questionnaires, ensuring validity and reliability is crucial for assessing their viability, enabling use in future case studies, and potentially applying them in final solutions. To affirm the UUXE-ToH suitability for assessing THS usability and UX, a content and face validation study involving 13 experts was performed. This study validated the questionnaire and provided valuable insights for refinement, including enhancing question clarity, sentence structure, and additional guidance for future evaluators. Therefore, this study is motivated by the central research question: How can the UUXE-ToH questionnaire be refined and improved based on expert qualitative feedback?

Feedback meetings with experts were recorded and transcribed, with participant comments on the evaluation form and notes within UUXE-ToH joined to the transcript. Qualitative analysis followed the first two steps of the Grounded Theory (GT) method proposed by Corbin and Strauss (2014), encompassing open coding (1) and axial coding (2). The first step involved categorizing data based on each participant’s response, while the second grouped codes based on their properties and relationships, forming categories representing their characteristics. Notably, selective coding was omitted, as this study focused on the initial validation and improvement of UUXE-ToH, with open and axial coding proving sufficient to comprehend experts’ opinions.

This paper unfolds the evolution of the UUXE-ToH questionnaire, from its inception to the second version, shaped by expert insights. Beyond detailing the questionnaire’s evolution, the paper addresses a critical gap in touchable holography evaluation. It brings the refined UUXE-ToH and a methodological approach that enriches our understanding of Augmented and Mixed Reality user interactions.

The paper’s subsequent sections include a review of related work (Section 2), an overview of the UUXE-ToH questionnaire (Section 3), a detailed account of the content and face validation study with experts (Section 4), a presentation of suggestions from the study (Section 5), a demonstration of the processing of expert suggestions (Section 6), and an introduction to the second version of the UUXE-ToH questionnaire (Section 7). The final considerations are presented in Section 8.

2 RELATED WORK

Ensuring the accuracy and replicability of research results depends heavily on the validity and reliability of the instruments, primarily questionnaires. Validity, covering face, content, construct, and criterion types, focuses on measuring what the instrument intends to measure, while reliability, including equivalence, stability, and internal consistency, ensures applicability (Bolarinwa, 2015). Content validity is crucial to ensure the questionnaire items’ relevance, representativeness, and comprehensiveness concerning the construct measured (Koller et al., 2017). Face validity addresses the appearance and initial acceptability of the questionnaire, identifying clarity, format, and style issues (DeVellis and Thorpe, 2022). Content and face validation are inseparable, and their results allow adjustments to the questionnaire before moving on to other validation stages (Costa, 2021). A literature search identified validity and reliability studies for questionnaires assessing usability, UX, or dimensions in AR/MR environments. Below, we highlight selected questionnaires and their associated studies.

The Usefulness, Satisfaction, and Ease of Use Questionnaire (USE), developed by Lund (2001), was submitted to a study with 151 participants aimed to evaluate your psychometric properties (Gao et al., 2018). The USE, consisting of 30 items on a 7-point Likert scale, measures usability across four dimensions: usefulness, ease of use, ease of learning, and satisfaction. The participants assessed Microsoft Word and Amazon.com using the USE and the SUS. The study revealed high reliability for the overall USE score (Cronbach’s alpha = .98). Validity was established through significant correlations between USE dimensions and SUS scores (r between .60 and .82, p < .001). A factor analysis unveiled a four-factor model, deviating from the original.

The UEQ underwent a psychometric evaluation to establish its validity through two usability studies. In the first study, 13 participants performed tasks related to a sales representative scenario. Task-oriented
aspects (Perspicuity, Efficiency, Dependability) were expected to negatively correlate with task completion time, while non-task-related aspects (Novelty, Stimulation) showed no substantial correlation. The study validated these hypotheses, indicating initial validity for the questionnaire. In the second study, 16 students participated in a usability test with tasks in a CRM system, and correlations between UEQ scales and the AttrakDiff2 questionnaire were examined. The expected correlations were confirmed, further supporting the UEQ’s validity.

The Presence Questionnaire (PQ) and Immersive Tendencies Questionnaire (ITQ) were developed to measure presence in a virtual environment (VE) and individuals’ tendencies for immersion, respectively. PQ had 28 items, and ITQ had 29. The questionnaires underwent evaluation through four experiments involving 152 participants performing tasks in different VEs. Reliability analyses yielded Cronbach’s Alpha values of 0.81 for ITQ and 0.88 for PQ. Content validity was established by deriving PQ items from factors identified in the literature about presence. Construct validity was supported by positive correlations with VE task performance, ITQ scores, and negative correlations with Simulator Sickness Questionnaire (SSQ) scores (Kennedy et al., 1993). Factors were identified for both questionnaires through cluster analyses. The statistically derived constructs of the PQ do not perfectly match the original factors.

This short review underscores the need for improved validation processes to ensure the relevance of measured constructs. However, based on the publications found and cited above, no details about the content and face validation process carried out in the USE, UEQ, PQ, and ITQ questionnaires were identified. In response, this article distinguishes the UUXE-ToH questionnaire by presenting the results of an expert validation study to confirm its constructs’ suitability and sentences to evaluate THS.

3 UUXE-ToH

The formulation of the UUXE-ToH questionnaire was a meticulous process, initiated by consciously choosing a questionnaire as the evaluation method. This decision was driven by its practicality, ease of data collection, and impersonal nature (Skarbez et al., 2017). Drawing on established models for questionnaire development, the process prioritized defining constructs based on theoretical reviews (DeVellis and Thorpe, 2022). Then, the constructs for the questionnaire were described based on the SMS of Campos et al. (2023) and an Exploratory Search (Marchionini, 2006) of common usability and UX aspects in the literature. This process involved merging usability and UX criteria into a cohesive set, ensuring a comprehensive evaluation framework.

Initially, based on the exploratory search, 18 aspects were carefully defined, covering critical dimensions: Effectiveness, Efficiency, Learnability, Memorability, Error Prevention and Recovery, Controllability, Satisfaction, Overall Usability, Pleasure and Fun, Trustworthiness, Usefulness, Beauty and Aesthetic, Desirability, Value, Creativity and Novelty, Emotional, Stimulation, and Overall UX. After, based on essential dimensions of AR/MR environments (Skarbez et al., 2021) that were poorly explored in evaluation technologies found in the SMS, we introduced into the set two specific aspects, Immersion and Presence, providing distinct perspectives in evaluating THS, resulting in 20 aspects representing the questionnaire’s constructs. Immersion focused on the objective enhancement of the manipulation function (Slater, 2018), while Presence delved into users’ subjective experiences (Berkman and Akan, 2019), capturing their sense of virtual elements seamlessly blending into the real world.

With the constructs set in place, the next phase involved creating an item pool for the questionnaire. A sample comprising 67 assessment items was generated to measure the 20 selected constructs (Figure 1). The process included creating sentences by merging original formulations with content adapted from identified questionnaires. The UUXE-ToH questionnaire adopts a 7-level Likert scale for response accuracy and enhanced user engagement, providing three gradations for agreement and disagreement. This scale aligns with established usability assessment questionnaires and ensures a more nuanced and precise reflection of respondents’ evaluations (Finstad, 2010). The inclusion of “Not Applicable” (NA) and “I Don’t Know How to Answer” (IDK) options supply diverse contexts and user uncertainties.

Additionally, three open-ended questions follow the objective items, strategically designed to gather qualitative feedback, allowing users to articulate their experiences and propose constructive suggestions. The questionnaire deliberately avoids grouping sentences and labeling constructs, prioritizing user simplicity and familiarity. The complete UUXE-ToH questionnaire can be accessed at this link: https://figshare.com/s/c2bca82c8fe238b392f8.
4 VALIDATION STUDY

Approved by the Research Ethics Committee, the study aimed to analyze the UUXE-ToH through content and face validation by experts. The study occurred remotely from June to August 2023, involving experts from Brazilian laboratories and research groups related to Human-Computer Interaction, Usability, UX, Software Engineering, AR, and MR.

Participants underwent a video instruction call, receiving information about UUXE-ToH and the study’s goals. The UUXE-ToH questionnaire and online forms for participant characterization and evaluation were provided. Participants had one to six weeks to complete the forms for assessment. Afterward, they participated in a second video call for general feedback. Electronic forms data were processed and analyzed using Atlas.ti software and the GT method, specifically open and axial coding.

Thirteen experts (P1 to P13) holding Ph.D. or Master’s degrees across diverse academic backgrounds, including Computer Science, Design, Engineering, and Sciences, participated. The majority were male, with ages ranging from 21 to 60. Proficiencies included Usability, UX, and experience in AR/MR. Expertise levels varied, providing a comprehensive perspective on the UUXE-ToH questionnaire.

5 QUALITATIVE RESULTS

The qualitative analysis resulted in categories presented in the following subsections (Figure 2).

5.1 Suggestions for Sentences

This was the biggest category of experts’ feedback. Therefore, it was divided into subcategories: Rewriting, Terms Explain or Standardization, Discarding, Unifying, Modifying or Rethinking, Sorting and Proximity, Adding New, and Others.

5.1.1 Rewriting

The experts presented many suggestions related to sentence writing. Overall, recommendations included substituting complex words with user-friendly alternatives, incorporating examples and explanations, and improving assertiveness (see comments from P8, P9, and P7). Additionally, spelling and grammar errors were identified. Criticism and suggestions for standardization were directed at repeated terms across sentences (see comments from P1, P2, and P10).

P8 (31-40y, MSc.) “Depending on the type of user, there should be a definition in parentheses of a ‘mixed environment.’ ”

P9 (51-60y, PhD.) “In 23, the ‘mixed environment’ concept is introduced. It is worth thinking about whether users can easily understand it. Consider using a less specific description.”

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1https://atlasti.com/
### 5.1.2 Discarding

Here, we group suggestions for discarding sentences for various reasons. For example, some experts considered sentence 20, related to the Overall Usability construct, unnecessary as others already helped measure ease of use (see comments from P7 and P10). Another expert warned that sentence 31, related to lighting conditions, was not something the end user should evaluate (see P12’s comment). There was also a suggestion to remove sentences related to auditory feedback (see P3’s comment).

P7 (31-40y, MSc.) “I found the holographic solution easy to use. In my opinion, there would be no reason to keep question 20. It seems to me that questions 10 and 20 are very similar. I would leave just one of them.”

P10 (21-30y, MSc.) “Perhaps sentence 20 could be excluded to shorten the questionnaire, as it may already be included in others.”

P12 (51-60y, phD.) “Sentence 41 doesn’t seem to provide very relevant information for anyone...”

P3 (31-40y, phD.) “You could eliminate some sentences. Depending on the experiment, there is no sound.”

### 5.1.3 Unifying

This category groups explicit suggestions to unify or merge sentences. An expert suggested unifying sentences 5 and 6 because they relate to time (see P5’s comment). Another suggested combining sentences 40 and 41 related to innovation and modern resources (see P7’s comment). Another indicated that sentences 55 and 56 are one because pleasant and fun could be considered a single user desire (see P12’s comment).
P5 (31-40y, MSc.) “As it is about time, think sentences 5 and 6 could be just one.”

P7 (31-40y, MSc.) “The sentences 40 and 41 could be transformed into one. Innovative, technological... This could become a single sentence, for have fewer questions, okay?”

P12 (51-60y, phD.) “I think it could be just one sentence. Does someone want to have fun with the interaction or want it to be pleasant? Does anyone have fun with the mouse?”

5.1.4 Modifying Structure or Rethinking

Suggestions were made to modify the structure of certain UXUETOH sentences. For example, someone suggested that sentence 38 become an open question (see P8’s comment). Another suggestion in this regard was to replace sentences about Emotions with an open question (see P7’s comment). For sentence 54 concerning discomfort, an expert recommended adding an empty field to allow the user to describe the type of discomfort experienced (see P3’s comment).

P8 (31-40y, MSc.) “This question will be conditioned on the user knowing other tools to compare. It gains more when asked openly.”

P7 (31-40y, MSc.) “Here is a sequence of sentences related to feelings. Instead of having these, there could be a question that asks what sensations he felt when using it.”

P3 (31-40y, phD.) “In sentence 54, the user would place it on the scale and open a field to report this discomfort.”

5.1.5 Sorting and Proximity

Suggestions were made to rearrange specific sentences. For example, concerning sentences for Learnability, someone suggested that sentences 11 and 12 be reversed in order of presentation (see P8’s comment). It was also suggested that sentence 23 be brought closer to other sentences about gestures (see P4’s comment).

P8 (31-40y, MSc.) “In item 11, “I can use it” or “I was able to use it” without prior instructions would be manual, which is different from item 12, tips and guidance. Maybe change the order of 12 and 11, ask if it was presented, and then if it needed to be used.”

P4 (51-60y, phD.) “Shouldn’t sentence 23, (...), be close to the gestures items?”

5.1.6 Adding New Sentences

Experts also suggested new sentences for UXUE-TOH. For example, it was suggested that more sentences be added to the Memorability construct (see P6a’s comment). Another sentence was indicated to the Immersion construct to evaluate problems of passing through the holographic object (see P3’s comment). Also, a direct and objective sentence was suggested to assess Satisfaction (see P6b’s comment).

P6a (21-30y, BS.) “I think you only have one sentence about memorization. There could be at least one more sentence. For example: ‘I can easily remember one or more elements of the solution’ or ‘It is easy for me to remember the sequence of steps to use the solution.’ ”

P3 (31-40y, phD.) “If you crossed the line when interacting. Regarding passing through the object. It’s because sometimes we get confused by distance. Suppose you want to touch the object and pass by it.”

P6b (21-30y, BS.) “There could be a straightforward satisfaction question. ‘I was satisfied using the solution.’ ”

5.2 Suggestions About Structure and Presentation

In this category, we have included suggestions related to questionnaire structure (like constructs, scale, and answer options) and related to the presentation (like grouping, labeling, and sorting). The following subcategories were created to facilitate the analysis.

5.2.1 Constructs Set

This subcategory encompasses the comments about the suitability of the constructs for evaluating SHTs. One expert proposed excluding Overall Usability and General UX constructs, suggesting they could be assessed through other aspects of the questionnaire (see P10’s comment). Additionally, a recommendation was made to introduce a dedicated Comfort construct (see P2’s comment) covering existing sentences, given its importance in interactions involving arm movement and wearable devices.

P10 (21-30y, MSc.) “Could general usability not be obtained from the usability subconstructs? (…) wouldn’t extracting the general UX from the other constructs be better?”

P2 (41-50y, phD.) “I believe this sentence (54) is much more linked to a dimension of comfort. This item is close to an item on the effi-
5.2.2 Labeling Constructs and Sorting

Experts were divided regarding labeling groups of sentences to identify the constructs assessed by the questionnaire. Some thought that labeling was beneficial to the end user, and those who believed that it could overload the user with terms that the user is not familiar with. Some suggested that sentences could be grouped into themes (not necessarily constructs), and these groups identified with words that are easy for the end user to understand (See comments from P8 and P9). Grouping and labeling could also allow other researchers to remove parts of UUXE-ToH that they do not consider necessary for their evaluation context (see P12’s comment). Regarding the order of presentation of the constructs, the majority did not see any problems with the proposed order. However, an expert reinforced that pragmatic aspects should come before hedonic aspects (See P10’s comment).

P8 (31-40y, MSc.) “I think maybe grouping them into themes.”
P9 (51-60y, PhD.) “Many sentences could be grouped by subject.”
P12 (51-60y, PhD.) “You should make these divisions of the questionnaire more explicit. People can remove parts of the questionnaire if they are not interesting.”
P10 (21-30y, MSc.) “I recommend to group the pragmatic and then the hedonic aspects.”

5.2.3 Likert Scale and Answer Options

This category grouped suggestions related to users’ response options. For example, about the Likert scale, one of the researchers suggested that the manual for using UUXE-ToH must contain instructions on how the results should be analyzed, warning not to use the average (see P10’s comment). Another expert opined that the IDK option could serve as an escape for the respondent to avoid expressing their opinion on a sentence (see P1’s comment).

P10 (21-30y, MSc.) “Regarding the Likert scale, there should be a guide to indicate use median and not average.”
P1 (21-30y, PhD.) “Sometimes, he will disagree with something, but instead of disagreeing, he responds IDK so as not to disagree, and ends up biasing the answer. It can be an escape valve for the user. So it would be best to consider whether you will keep it.”

5.3 Considerations About Sentences

In this category, comments that presented positive or negative considerations about specific sentences, reinforcing their relevance or indicating a problem with the sentence, were grouped. For example, sentence 06 was considered very useful despite having specific applicability (see P8’s comment). Regarding sentence 19, one of the experts pointed out that the loss of mobility may not impact carrying out the task (see P4’s comment). In sentence 50, the term “interesting” was considered too vague by one of the experts (see P12’s comment). These considerations, although not explicit suggestions are essential for decisions to be made with the sentences to which they are related.

P8 (31-40y, MSc.) “In sentence 6, there is a need for specific practical applicability. But it is very useful!”
P4 (51-60y, PhD.) “This may not have influenced the execution of the task... review the focus and importance of the question.”
P12a (51-60y, PhD.) “Interesting is too vague a term to ask.”
P12b (51-60y, PhD.) “I don’t know how to differentiate surprise from admiration well in this context.”

5.4 Perceptions of Similar Sentences

The experts also sought to identify whether the sentences were similar and whether they seemed to evaluate the same thing. In this sense, several sentences were highlighted, such as sentences 2 and 28 (see P3’s comment), 4 and 35 (see P8’s comment), and 9 and 10 (see P5’s comment). An expert also thought that sentence 20 was a synthesis of sentences 9 to 14 (see P11’s comment).

P3 (31-40y, PhD.) “28 is similar to 2.”
P8 (31-40y, MSc.) “4 I found similar to 35.”
P5 (31-40y, MSc.) “9 and 10 are similar.”
P11 (41-50y, PhD.) “At twenty, I found the holographic solution easy to use. It seemed like a synthesis of what had already been considered in 9 to 14.”
5.5 Doubts

5.5.1 Doubts About Specific Sentences

Certain sentences raised concerns for potential confusion among end users or generated doubts among experts due to poorly chosen words. For example, in sentence 5, “little time” raised concerns (see P7a’s comment). In sentence 27, “occlusion” also raised doubts (see comments from P8 and P1). Sentence 51 also caused doubts for some experts, as the person would have already used the solution when filling out the questionaire (see comments from P7b and P11).

P7a (31-40y, MSc.) “What would be a short time? (…) what is considered a short time? Wouldn’t it be better to put the time allocated for the activity?”

P8 (31-40y, MSc.) “Occlusion was a difficult term that I had to look for meaning.”

P1 (21-30y, phD.) “I don’t know what occlusion is.”

P7b (31-40y, MSc.) “This question (51), I don’t quite understand if it’s for people who have never used this solution. I was a little confused because I understand that the person has already used this solution, so they actually wouldn’t like to be able to use it. Maybe they can use it in another situation.”

P11 (41-50y, phD.) “I was wondering if it made sense because here he is already using it, right? So perhaps, if he would like to use this solution frequently or daily, it would be more in that direction.”

5.5.2 General Doubts

This category comprises experts’ concerns applicable to multiple sentences or the entire questionnaire. The primary issue is using varying terms, occasionally synonymous with holographic solutions, leading to potential confusion (see comments from P2 and P11). Similarly, the terms “task” and “activities” also raised doubts about their meaning (see P3’s comment). There was also a doubt whether Learnability was about the activity to be carried out or about the solution (see P10’s comment).

P2 (41-50y, phD.) “I was unsure between holography and hologram (…) Is holography the same as hologram? Will the user know the difference?”

P11 (41-50y, phD.) “(…) Sometimes, you use ‘the holographic solution’: Others, just ‘the solution.’ Also, you use ‘hologram,’ and it seems to me in the sense of replacing the ‘solution’ term. This might confuse those who are using it.”

P3 (31-40y, phD.) “Some sentences said ‘type of task,’ and others said ‘tasks.’ Others, ‘activities.’ Could it be a task that has multiple actions? Could it be a sequence of tasks or actions? It’s just a matter of writing. Some sentences are in the singular, and others are in the plural. Make it clear to the participant.”

P10 (21-30y, MSc.) “Is Learnability a concept related to the holographic solution or the activities? What are you trying to measure learnability?”

5.6 Suggestions About Open Questions

The first question was what received the most suggestions. Experts recommended adding a neutral answer option or a scale to enhance respondent flexibility. (see comment from P2a). It was also suggested that this question be divided into positive and negative reports (see P2b’s comment). In question 3, the experts suggested adding comments and criticisms to the question and changing the pronoun to allow opinions about other people’s experiences (see comments from P3 and P8).

P2a (41-50y, phD.) “I would leave the ‘neutral’ option. Another possibility would be to use a 7-point scale (e.g., very negative, negative, somewhat negative, neutral, somewhat positive, positive, very positive). This would even make it possible to test the correlation between the overall experience and the other dimensions.”

P2b (41-50y, phD.) “It would be worth dividing it into two questions: ‘What was positive?’ and ‘What was negative?’ This way, there would be no risk of people talking only about the positive or negative points.”

P3 (31-40y, phD.) “In the last question, you could mention comments and criticisms too.”

P8 (31-40y, MSc.) “In question 3, replace the pronoun ‘your.’ Because the user can speak and make suggestions for other user profiles. For example, I have a family member with visual impairment, and I can make suggestions to improve their experience.”
5.7 Miscellaneous Suggestions

This category grouped suggestions that did not fit in the previous categories. Some are aimed at the initial instructions for applying the questionnaire, such as instructing the user to contact the researcher if they have any questions (see P3’s comment) or even giving users time to ask questions about the questionnaire before starting to answer it. (see P7’s comment).

P3 (31-40y, phD.) “An instruction to contact the researcher in case of doubt could be interesting.”

P7 (31-40y, MSc.) “One tip is to allow time for users to ask you their questions.”

6 DISCUSSION AND RESULTS

PROCESSING

After classifying the experts’ feedback, the next step was to process all this input, analyzing what was possible and feasible to apply in UUXE-ToH. All classified comments were exported to a spreadsheet to facilitate the process, and an additional column was used to identify which sentence or question the comment was related to. Then, for each sentence in UUXE-ToH, the comments with perceptions, considerations, and suggestions about that sentence were analyzed. Thus, it was possible to evaluate the comments. We considered whether we could keep/remove, correct, modify, or move the sentence in UUXE-ToH. For each comment, we indicate in another column whether it was entirely, partially accepted, or rejected and the respective action taken based on the evaluation of the comment. For example, sentence 20 presented 14 comments in different categories (Considerations, Perception of Similarity, Discard Suggestion, and Miscellaneous Suggestions). Analyzing all the comments together, it was decided to eliminate this sentence and the respective construct (as just this sentence represented it).

After analyzing the comments related to specific sentences, the remaining comments were processed by category. For example, all suggestions regarding the Likert scale were analyzed. One suggested that information on how the results should be analyzed in the UUXE-ToH instruction manual be included. This information was then added to the UUXE-ToH instruction manual. Below, we list some of the main decisions made based on qualitative analysis of expert feedback.

6.1 Removal Constructs

The Overall Usability construct, represented by sentence 20 only, was removed. The experts considered that Overall Usability could be inferred through other constructs related to the usability criterion, such as Effectiveness, Efficiency, and Learnability. Furthermore, the writing of sentence 20 would have been very close to the points evaluated by sentences 9, 10, and 13. Similarly, the General UX construct was removed, represented solely by sentence 52 (I liked using the solution).

6.2 Adding a New Construct, Comfort

Experts suggested the creation of a new construct called Comfort. This construct was created by combining sentences 7, 8, and 54. The first two refer to the absence of physical and mental fatigue, respectively, and were previously allocated to the efficiency construct, considering human effort as user resources spent to achieve the goals. Sentence 54 explains the absence of discomfort with the equipment necessary to use the solution. This sentence represented the physical component of the Satisfaction construct, a result of the physical experience of using the solution. Combining the three sentences into a single construct highlights an essential aspect of solutions involving user movement and wearable devices.

Comfort is related to ensuring that the user works less but obtains a satisfactory or even maximized result. Whether from a physical or mental point of view, the solution must reduce the effort required to achieve the user’s objective. Wearable devices must be ergonomic and not painful for the user.

6.3 Modifying Emotion’s Sentences

The sentences for the Emotions construct were reformulated. Instead of four sentences, the construct now has five sentences representing the families of primary (or universal) emotions most commonly referenced by researchers: Happiness, Disgust, Sadness, Fear, and Anger. Thus, the sentences for this construct sought to assess whether the user felt positive emotions or did not feel negative emotions. Each sentence presents the most common name for the primary emotion or one that could be related to the use of interactive solutions and, in parentheses, some other gradations of the same emotion family. For example, sentence 64 became: “I felt happy (content, joyful) when using the holographic solution.” In contrast, a new sentence was added: “I did not feel sadness (disappointment, disillusion) when using the holo-
graphic solution.” Disgust was presented in the sentence “I did not feel aversion (repulsion) for the holographic solution.” With this reformulation, responses in agreement with the sentences of the emotion construct indicate that the end user had positive feelings or the absence of negative feelings during the experience with the holographic solution.

6.4 Discarding and Adding Sentences

Some sentences from UXE-ToH have been removed. For example, in the Learnability construct, sentences 9 and 10 were removed because we understand, as pointed out by the experts, that sentence 13 already dealt with the ease of learning the gestures necessary for the interaction. In the Immersion construct, sentence 31 was removed because it was understood that the solution’s suitability to different lighting levels in the environment would not be a task to be evaluated by the end user. Sentence 41, for example, was removed because we understand, according to experts’ considerations, that “modern” does not mean good. Furthermore, being modern does not necessarily provide relevant information. Some sentences were also removed because they were very similar to others that already addressed the topic, such as sentence 49, which was very similar to sentence 21. In total, 14 sentences were removed from UXE-ToH.

On the other hand, experts also suggested adding new sentences to the constructs. In Memorability, a new sentence was added to check whether the user finds it easy to remember the sequence of steps to use the solution and perform the main operations. In the Immersion construct, a sentence was added to verify the absence of problems with passing through a hologram during the interaction (“I did not pass through a hologram I wanted to interact with”). In Motivation, a new sentence was added to check user engagement when not noticing time passing during use. New sentences were also added to the Satisfaction and Emotions constructs.

6.5 Rewriting Sentences

UXE-ToH sentences were revised based on expert feedback, including simple adjustments like standardizing terms for common concepts. For example, sentence six was modified from “This solution increases my productivity when performing this type of task” to “This holographic solution increases my productivity when performing this type of activity.” Other sentences were changed to make the end user’s understanding easier, such as changing some words and/or adding explanatory phrases. For example, sentence 23 of the immersion construct replaced the words “quickly updated” with “in real-time,” giving the user a better parameter to understand the sentence, which also gained an additional phrase to explain the definition of a mixed environment.

6.6 Changes in Open Questions

The first open question underwent important changes. Firstly, the options for marking, positive or negative, were replaced by a 7-point semantic differential scale, with the paired terms negative-positive so that the user could indicate their experience in general terms. This scale can be used to analyze the correlation between the constructs in the objective part of the questionnaire and the general experience. Furthermore, instead of just one open field to report the experience, two fields were provided: one to describe the positive experience and another to the negative experience.

A new question was added, resulting from converting sentence 38 into an open question. Thus, instead of just the user indicating whether the holographic solution is better than other solutions for the same activity, it allows the evaluator to understand in what sense the solution was considered (or not) better than another for the user. This type of feedback is much more enriching because it brings insights into understanding what the user values in solutions for that type of activity.

6.7 Grouping and Labeling

Although we believe that users should not know which aspects make up Usability and UX or what they are called, we understand that grouping the sentences and labeling these groups can make it easier to understand and complete the questionnaire. This can help the user to differentiate sentences that may seem the same at first, such as sentences 1 (Effectiveness) and 5 (Efficiency). Grouping also provides spacing (negative space) between sequences of sentences, which is vital in layout, bringing less confusion and helping the user focus on one group of sentences at a time.

7 UXE-ToH v2

By compiling all the experts’ feedback, the new version of the questionnaire (UXE-ToH v2) now has the following structure. The introduction now features a glossary defining “holographic solution” and “hologram.” The initial evaluation section, “Evaluation by Aspect,” encompasses 60 sentences categorized under Usability and UX dimensions. (Figure 3).
The sentences continued to be evaluated using the 7-point Likert scale. However, the answer option IDK was removed. Some sentences that could be removed by the applicator depending on the context or condition of the holographic solution were identified and labeled as optional.

The second part of the assessment was identified by “Global Feedback” and now has a total of six questions, the first being a question with a semantic differential scale (negative-positive) of seven levels and five open questions, with space for the user to describe their experience, perceptions, and suggestions.

The second version of UUXE-ToH can be obtained at https://figshare.com/s/229ae223135d66e79ad3.

8 CONCLUSIONS

In conclusion, this study marks a significant step in developing an assessment questionnaire for touchable holography, with the UUXE-ToH questionnaire emerging as a promising instrument after content and face validation by experts. The constructive feedback from experts was pivotal in refining and enhancing the questionnaire. Qualitative analysis of the content provided in interviews and forms gave us a comprehensive understanding of correcting and improving the questionnaire. We learned important lessons, especially concerning the writing of sentences, always seeking to maintain clarity and words that best reach users’ understanding, including standardizing key terminology to avoid doubts or different interpretations between sentences. We also credit the reorganization of some sentences into a new construct (Comfort), and the modification of sentences in the Emotions construct to the feedback received by the experts.

8.1 Limitations

While providing valuable insights into the content and face validation of the assessment questionnaire for touchable holography, this study faces limitations that warrant acknowledgment. The modest sample size raises concerns about generalizability, and the opinions of experts, though insightful, might represent only a partial perspective. Additionally, the participant pool, which comprises leaders of Brazilian research groups, introduces potential regional bias. Diverse expertise and experience levels among participants could introduce variability in assessments, with some experts lacking direct exposure to THS technology, potentially restricting evaluations to theoretical knowledge or analogies with similar applications. When interpreting findings and assessing the questionnaire’s applicability in specific contexts, researchers should consider these limitations, including sample size, geographic focus, and varied participant knowledge levels. Expanding the participant pool and conducting cross-cultural validations could enhance the questionnaire’s robustness and broaden its overall validity.

8.2 Future Works

For future work, the evolved UUXE-ToH questionnaire, now validated for content and face by experts, will be employed in practical experiments involving THS. One study will aim to assess the question-
naire’s reliability and validity through internal consistency verification and factor analysis. Following this, UXUE-ToH will evaluate the user experience across THS solutions with varying technical qualities, investigating how constructs’ outcomes may reflect device variations. Additionally, the questionnaire will be tested in a scenario where potential users assess its acceptance. These studies will allow a practical application of the UXUE-ToH in diverse contexts, contributing to a deeper understanding of user interactions in touchable holography and offering insights into the acceptance and effectiveness of THS across different technical landscapes.

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REFERENCES


