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- Friday, December 2, 1994
Coding Linear Movement

1.1 There were loads of people there. Faculty that I noticed were Howard, Harris, Grasse, Regan, Kaiser, Jenkin. I am afraid I was too busy to make a note of everyone else. Next time I will pass out an attendance register, I think.

1.2 We need a better way of handling the opening introduction round but until someone can think of one, we'll carry on just calling out our names, perhaps adding "working with xxxx", I don't know, or perhaps standing up as you speak to make things clearer...

1.3 Everyone continued to express their happiness with Fri at 10.

2.1 A request for volunteers to contribute to the 1/95 meeting did not produce an enthusiastic response. Having just done the meeting I am writing up, I can say it was quite a useful experience. I will open this for discussion next time and I will suggest running two parallel schemes at the same time. One, that we are operating at the moment with a faculty person running one meeting; and another in which anyone can request a slot of whatever length they want. I want people to feel free to talk about THEIR project without running the whole show. We'll talk more about this next time, in the meantime, if anyone would like to have a slot, let me know.

2.2 Eventually everyone took a step backwards leaving Ian Howard to put together a discussion for 1/95. So the next meeting will be on the first Friday in January (6th) at 10am in 061.

3.1 Laurence Harris took the opportunity to talk about 4 projects that he is doing connected to LINEAR movement.

3.2 I have just come back from Rochester, riding the infinite sled in which I looked at the relationship between the perception of tilt and the perception of linear motion. There is an interesting continuum. The Coriolis forces were fun too!!

3.3 The MIT sled project showed that vestibular information is useful when it is in the natural relationship with vision but has no effect when it is opposed (vision goes the wrong way).

3.4 Hurling people down corridors suggests that relying on vestibular information alone is not a good idea. People think they have gone FURTHER than they really have (preliminary data suggest) if they are moved in the dark. But they are confused... Otmars suggested this might reflect difficulties with the sense of time.

3.5 I am proposing, in collaboration with Michael Jenkin of the computer dept, to provide various VISUAL cues, using a virtual reality helmet, to try and isolate the significance of VISUAL and VESTIBULAR cues to the perception of self motion.

3.6 I also mentioned measuring head tilt in drivers.

3.7 There was some useful discussion in which Martin Regan helped clarify some of the forces involved -- especially for (3.6).

4.1 Let me know if you are getting more than one copy of this mailing and I will try and sort it out. Some of the undergraduates who come along may not be getting mailings of their own unless they are on YORKVIS. I would like very much to encourage everyone to come, so please let me know if you would like me to add anyone else to the mailing list.

4.2 So have a great holiday break (if you do) and I will see you all on the 6th Jan.

Laurence Harris
York University