

(33) Connecting the Presence's Factors for Guiding Measurements

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Abstract

This work presents a model as a first insight to discuss the relationships among parameters that affect presence. It is a step in the direction of delimiting the range of causal relationships for the presence phenomenon, as part of an ongoing research towards a framework for measuring presence.

Presence, media and mediated experience

According to the paradigm of "second order" mediated experience, we represent the implicit relation between sense of presence and mediated experience as a bilateral relationship. This relationship shows the strong interdependence of these factors in order to obtain the presence phenomenon. This correlation comprises several parameters concerned with presence in a quite complex structure of connections.

The connections among parameters that affect presence

To start discussing the relationships among the parameters, we need to evince important associations existing implicitly in the correlation above. Considering these associations, we see that they constitute the main entities of the presence phenomenon, based on the paradigm of "second order" mediated experience. The connection between each two of the entities show the relationships among them, represented by an axis. In reality all entities and relationships are interdependent, but what each axis shows is the direct dependence between the factors connected by it, and the indirect dependence when the factors are not on the same axis.

Measurement implications

What we suggest as main contribution, for this level of diagram, is to group the measurement experiments according to the connections presented. The model can be used to map the measurement of presence determinants onto these guidelines, giving conditions to visualize in which range of relationships the measures are being applied. This leads to identify which variables are directly or indirectly involved in the experiment under observation, what can help to guide measurement efforts in order to make comparisons across studies under the same range of variables. It is a start for defining scopes of measures, defining boundaries among factors determinants of presence and a step in the direction of delimiting the range of causal relationships for the presence phenomenon.