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21 Abstract

- 22 The present study compared two distinct approaches to designing driving assistance devices. 23 These devices aim to facilitate steering responses by delivering directional pulses on the 24 steering wheel when lane departure is imminent. In one case, the aim is to prime the 25 corrective gesture through a haptic cue in the direction of the lane centre (motor priming). The 26 other approach consists of eliciting a compensatory reflex reaction by means of a jerk of the 27 steering wheel in the opposite direction. Central to this investigation are the safety benefits of 28 the devices and the ability of drivers to remain in full control of their steering responses. The 29 steering behaviour of 18 participants during near lane departure in bends and in straight lines 30 was analysed. The strength and direction of haptic cueing was manipulated. The results show 31 that drivers were always able to control the direction of the steering response when the haptic 32 cue was delivered. No reflex counteraction was observed, whatever the strength or the 33 direction of the stimulus. The fastest responses were observed when the cue was directed 34 toward lane departure, especially when cueing was strong. However, these did not necessarily 35 lead to the fastest returns to a safe position in the lane when compared with motor priming 36 toward the lane centre. The latter yielded improved manoeuvre execution as soon as the 37 steering movement was initiated. These results are discussed in relation to the sensorimotor 38 and cognitive processes involved in steering behaviour. Their implications for the design of 39 haptic-based lane departure warning systems are considered.
- 40

41 **Keywords:** haptics; lane departure warning systems; cognitive control; steering behaviour

1. Introduction 42

43 Driving a vehicle requires constant monitoring of the trajectory. It is a fairly easy task, but it

44 is continuous, and driving for long periods may lead to errors because of a lack of attention.

- 45 One of the more serious consequences is lane departure. In 2003, out of 855,000 accidents,
- 46 about a quarter that led to injury or death in Canada, France, Germany and the Netherlands
- 47 have been classified as single-vehicle accidents (24%). This rises to more than one third
- 48 (36%) when accidents in urban environments are excluded from the analysis (UNECE, 2007).

49 In their extensive analysis of pre-crash scenarios in the USA, Najm et al. (2007) reported that road edge departure without prior vehicle manoeuvre was the second most frequent type of 50 51 single light-vehicle accidents. This represented an economic cost of \$8.9 billion and an 52 estimated loss of 271700 functional years for victims. Driving assistance devices are one 53 solution to this problem (Hoc, Young & Blosseville, 2009, Navarro, Mars & Young, 2011). 54 For example, lane departure warning systems (LDWS) aim to improve situation diagnosis by 55 indicating to the drivers that they are getting too close to the lane border. In order not to overload the visual channel, more and more assistance devices use other sensory channels. In 56 57 recent years, the haptic channel has gradually gathered interest in the area of transportation 58 research (Onimaru & Kitazaki, 2010). Various studies have shown that this could be an 59 effective channel for conveying information to the driver (Ho, Reed & Spence, 2006). This is the case for the accelerator pedal, which is used to assist speed control (Kuge et al. 2006; de 60 Rosario et al. 2010) or to promote eco-driving (Azzi, Reymond, Mérienne & Kemeny, 2011). 61 62 It also applies to the use of the steering wheel in assisting lateral control (Beruscha, Augsburg 63 & Manstetten, 2011; Navarro, Mars & Hoc, 2007, 2010; Suzuki & Jansson, 2003). Assistance to lateral control can be occasional or continuous (Griffiths & Gillespie, 2004). The present 64 study compared two distinct approaches (motor priming versus reflexive counteraction) to the 65 design of occasional driving assistance devices aimed at facilitating steering responses in 66 67 critical situations by means of directional haptic cueing.

68 *1.1. Motor priming and cognitive control*

69 The Motor Priming (MP) approach proposed by Navarro et al. (2007, 2010) consists in 70 delivering fast, small and asymmetric oscillations on the steering wheel when a large 71 deviation of lateral position is detected. Signal directionality is given by the asymmetry 72 between a relatively shorter and stronger torque pulse toward the centre of the lane than 73 toward the direction of lane departure. In this way, MP indicates in which direction the 74 steering wheel should be turned, with no direct effect on the vehicle's trajectory. The 75 increased effectiveness of MP compared to other directional warning systems has been 76 demonstrated. Actually, Navarro et al. (2007, 2010) made a series of comparisons between 77 MP (alone or in combination with auditory warning) and various configurations of warning 78 systems (including directional and non-directional steering wheel vibration). In particular, the 79 comparison between directional steering wheel vibration and MP allowed to isolate the specific role of the motor component of the MP signal in the improvement of recovery 80 manoeuvre. Both devices were identical (i.e. they both provided directional information to the 81 82 hands by means of the haptic modality), with the exception of the motor prompt, which 83 characterizes MP. Drivers were always quicker to return to a safe position with MP than with 84 any of the other warning systems. A detailed analysis of various steering indicators revealed 85 that this was due to an improved execution of the steering wheel corrective movement.

It has been proposed that MP improves corrective manoeuvres because it intervenes at the 86 87 sensory-motor level, whereas classic warning devices only act on the decision-making 88 process. Indeed, whatever the sensory modality through which it is perceived, any warning information is symbolic; it aims to improve the situation diagnosis. In particular, a LDWS 89 gives information about the position of the car, with a view to faster decision-making and 90 91 more rapid acting on the steering wheel. MP gives a warning to the driver, but it also acts at 92 the proprioceptive and motor levels by pre-activating the corrective gesture. In order to put 93 this idea in perspective, we can refer to the model developed by Parasuraman, Sheridan and 94 Wickens (2000), which is related to levels of automation (Fig. 1). Within this model, MP can 95 be described as follows: it acquires information about the lateral position of the car, analyses 96 this information relative to a safety threshold and selects the appropriate response. Then, it 97 acts on the driver both at the level of motor control (haptic prime) and at the level of decision

- 98 making (warning).
- 99

100 < INSERT FIGURE 1 HERE >

101

< INSERT FIGURE THERE >

102 The effectiveness of MP can be interpreted within the framework of the model of cognitive 103 control in dynamic situations proposed by Hoc and Amalberti (2007). This model is partly based on the Skill-Rule-Knowledge model introduced by Rasmussen (1986). It emphasises 104 105 the distinction between symbolic control, which involves mainly interpretative processes fed 106 by higher order information, and subsymbolic control, which encompasses perceptual and 107 motor processes fed by sensory signals. This model clarifies the influence of supervisory 108 processes (symbolic) on the execution of routines (subsymbolic), which was introduced by 109 Anderson et al. (2004). Within this model, MP facilitates the initiation and early execution of 110 the corrective manoeuvre by acting at the sensorimotor level (subsymbolic control). It also 111 warns the driver, which improves the diagnosis of the situation at the level of symbolic 112 control. In turn, supervisory processes can modulate the initiated motor response.

113 Navarro et al. (2007, 2010) first hypothesized this dual intervention of subsymbolic and 114 symbolic control. This question has been specifically addressed by Deroo, Hoc and Mars 115 (2012), who showed that MP reduced reaction times of corrective gestures during near lane departure. By way of contrast, the level of "risk expectation" manipulated by symbolic 116 117 information (text messages displayed during visual occlusions) did not influence reaction 118 times. It only influenced the strength of the corrective movements once it was initiated. This 119 suggests that the benefits of MP are due to an early intervention at the sensory motor level 120 (subsymbolic control), which can be modulated by symbolic situation analysis.

121 *1.2. Motor priming versus reflexive counteraction*

122 Some results obtained with devices delivering directional pulses on the steering wheel, such 123 as MP, pose the question of whether the driver has the ability to fully control the response 124 elicited by the haptic cue. Indeed, Suzuki and Jansson (2003) observed than when drivers 125 were not informed that they would receive directional pulses on the steering wheel, half the 126 participants followed the direction indicated by the device, while the other half of the 127 participants steered away from it, as if the stimulus was a perturbation that needed to be 128 counteracted. Kullack, Ehrenpfordt, Lemmer, and Eggert (2008) proposed an assistance 129 device called ReflektAS, based on the idea that reflex reactions to steering pulses can be 130 elicited quickly and reliably. They found very fast counteractions to strong pulses that were 131 directed toward the side of lane departure. Hence, although MP and ReflektAS deliver pulses 132 on the steering wheel to improve the driver's response, they are based on two opposing principles: MP delivers mild haptic cues to the arm motor system¹ in order to indicate the 133 134 direction of the required steering wheel motion, whereas ReflektAS aims to elicit a reflexive 135 counteraction to a strong pulse in the direction of lane departure. These two approaches differ 136 in terms of their expected influence on the driver's behaviour (priming versus counteraction), 137 but also in terms of how much control the driver is supposed to have over the provoked 138 response. Indeed, it should be possible to inhibit the MP response, whereas a reflexive 139 response should, by definition, be uncontrollable. According to Prochazka, Clarac, Loeb, 140 Rothwell and Wolpaw (2000), a movement is considered to be voluntary if it can be 141 modulated or inhibited and a reflex movement if it cannot. Applied to the case of haptically 142 cued steering responses, MP may trigger micro myotatic reflex responses in the arms, which

¹ With arm motor system, we refer to peripheral and central components of the nervous system in charge of controlling the activity of the arm muscles. This includes proprioception as well as active and passive control of muscle contraction.

143 may be observable by means of EMG recordings, but, in terms of ergonomics, the question is 144 to determine whether this translates as a steering wheel movement in the opposite direction

145 that cannot be modulated or inhibited by the drivers.

146 *1.3. Strength and direction of motor priming*

When comparing the steering pulses delivered by MP and ReflektAS, some differences are apparent. On the one hand, MP delivers repetitive pulses of moderate intensity (2 N/m) in the direction of the lane centre (Navarro et al. 2010). On the other hand, Kullack et al. (2008, 2010) tested different strengths of torque pulse up to 7 N/m in the direction of lane departure. Both strength and direction may be important to explain how these systems influence steering

- 152 responses.153 According to ex
- According to existing neurophysiological literature, it is difficult to evaluate the necessary 154 magnitude of the pulse delivered on the steering wheel to elicit a compensatory reflex reaction of the arm motor system (Cooke, 1980). Nonetheless, it is reasonable to assume that the 155 stronger the pulse, the higher the chance of yielding such a response. It can be hypothesized 156 157 that pulses below the reflex threshold would be perceived as haptic cues; thus, they would 158 indicate to the arm motor system the direction in which the movement should be executed. On the other hand, stronger pulses may trigger compensatory reflexes. In other words, increasing 159 160 the strength of the haptic cue may transform MP from an incentive to act to an irrepressible response to counteract. As such, MP would intervene lower on the continuum between 161 162 symbolic and subsymbolic control, at the reflex level.
- 163 With regard to the direction of the directional cue, steering responses are expected to be faster and have fewer errors when stimuli and responses correspond spatially (Guiard, 1983). 164 165 Recently, Beruscha, et al. (2010) investigated whether drivers steer toward or away from 166 vibro-tactile stimuli applied on one side of the steering wheel. The results revealed that in an 167 abstract environment, responses were indeed faster when the haptic cue was in the same direction as the correction needing to be initiated. However, in a driving environment, faster 168 169 responses were observed when target and haptic cues were in opposite directions. The authors 170 concluded that in the context of driving, avoidance manoeuvres in response to directional 171 stimulation on the steering wheel might be more efficient when the indicated direction is 172 contralateral to the danger. Moreover, other laboratory studies on reaction times have shown 173 that faster responses can be observed with primes and targets in the opposite direction when a 174 delay is introduced between them, the so-called negative compatibility effect (Boy and 175 Summer, 2010; Eimer and Schlaghecken, 2003; Sumner, 2007; Wilson, Tresilian and 176 Schlaghecken, 2010).

177 *1.4. Aims of the study*

178 Taking previous arguments into consideration, it remains to find out how directional pulses 179 should be delivered on the steering wheel with maximal efficiency to prevent lane departures. 180 From a theoretical point of view, the question is to determine how haptic cueing intervenes at 181 the subsymbolic (sensorimotor) level and to what extent the driver remains in control of the 182 corrective manoeuvres when prompted to react. To this end, the present study assessed the effects of the strength and direction of MP in lane departure situations. An improvement of 183 corrective manoeuvres was expected when mild haptic cueing indicated the direction of the 184 lane centre, as previously reported. The goal was to determine whether drivers could inhibit 185 inappropriate steering response when MP was directed in the opposite direction, both with 186 187 mild MP and with much stronger pulses, which may elicit fast compensatory "reflexive 188 behaviour". In accordance with the idea that symbolic control quickly allows to take into 189 account the context and modulate the execution of the steering response, we hypothesised that 190 contralateral MP would not give rise to manoeuvres in an inappropriate direction, even with 191 pulses of higher intensity. However, we expected an effect of the strength and direction of the 192 haptic cue on steering reaction times, which seems to be mainly determined at the 193 sensorimotor level. In particular, reduced steering reaction times may be observed with 194 contralateral pulses. However, it may not translate as an improved action on the steering 195 wheel and a gain in terms of safety.

196

197 **2. Method**

198 2.1. Participants

Eighteen drivers (14 males, 4 females, 27 years of age on average) participated in the study. Gender was not balanced since previous studies on the effect of haptic collision avoidance systems have shown no effect of gender on the perception of haptic intensity, reaction times or the control of lateral position (Stanley, 2006). They had all held a driving licence for at least 2 years (mean = 8.6 years). Self-reported annual mileage for the past year ranged from 1000 to 35 000 km (mean = 11 000 km). The participants reported no motion sickness.

205 *2.2. Simulator*

The study took place in a fixed-base driving simulator, consisting of a single-seat cockpit with full instrumentation. It was equipped with an active steering system for realistic forcefeedback. The SCANNeRII®² software package was used with the CALLAS® dynamic vehicle model (Lechner et al. 1997). The visual environment was displayed on three 32-inch LCD monitors, one positioned in front of the driver and two laterals turned at 45° from the front one, viewed from a distance of about 1 metre and covering 115° of visual angle in width and 25° in height. The graphics database reproduced a country environment.

213 2.3. Manipulated settings of motor priming

As was the case in previous studies by Navarro et al. (2007, 2010), the assistance device delivered asymmetric oscillations on the steering wheel when the car was about to cross one of the lane edges. The first movement of the steering wheel and every second movement lasted 100 ms and both movements were directed toward the road centre. In between them, weaker (0.5 N/m) and longer (200 ms) torque pulses were directed toward the opposite side. In each lane departure situation, three cycles of MP were delivered with an oscillation frequency of 3.3 Hz (Fig. 2).

221 Two MP settings were manipulated in the present experiment: strength (S = without 222 assistance, light MP, strong MP), and direction (D = toward lane centre, called *ipsilateral* or 223 toward lane departure, called *contralateral*). For light MP, the first pulse and every second 224 pulse were set at 2 N/m. For strong MP, the pulses were three times stronger (6 N/m). Thus, 225 light ipsilateral MP corresponded to the conditions used by Navarro et al. Light contralateral 226 MP would be considered as an erroneous indication according to the gesture initiation logic 227 and according to the visual scene. On the other hand, the strong contralateral MP, using torque pulses at intensities close to the highest values tested by Kullack et al. (2008), may 228 229 elicit appropriate compensatory reactions toward the lane centre. On the other hand, ipsilateral 230 strong MP might induce incorrect responses.

231

² http://www.scanersimulation.com/

232 < INSERT FIGURE 2 HERE >

233

234 *2.4. Procedure*

Crossing the strength and the direction factors resulted in six driving situations, which were repeated four times. In fact, the conditions without assistance were identical in both the ipsilateral and contralateral conditions since the strength of MP was set to zero. However, the distinction was made in order to better control the order of presentation of the conditions. Statistical analyses respected this distinction.

240 The 18 drivers recruited for this experiment had participated in another experiment a few days earlier. The aim of this previous experiment was to study the influence of risk expectation on 241 242 recovery manoeuvres with MP. The results were reported in Deroo et al. (2012). Thus, since 243 drivers were already accustomed to MP and to the simulator, no familiarisation was needed 244 this time. The present experiment lasted for 50 minutes. First, participants were asked to 245 adjust the seat position so as to achieve a realistic and pleasant driving posture. They were 246 asked to hold the steering wheel with both hands, in the "10-to-2" position. This hand 247 positioning was to be maintained throughout the experiment. Participants were instructed to 248 drive in the right lane, as they usually would, and to respect a speed limit of 70 km/h.

In each trial, drivers drove along a 3 km country road. Each trial lasted three minutes. The road was a two-lane road with 8 straight lines and 11 bends (curve radius ranging from 70 m to 500 m), with 7 turning to the left and 4 turning to the right. The driving lane was 3 m wide and delineated with a broken centreline and an edge line. Some intersections were present and other occasional vehicles were simulated to encourage participants to remain in their own lane.

255 In order to assess the effects of strength and direction of MP independently of any contextual 256 factors, it was essential to provoke very similar lane departure incidents in all situations. To this end, visual occlusions were chosen (Brookhuis et al. 2003). This was achieved by 257 258 suddenly blacking out all screens during driving. When visual occlusion occurred, 259 participants were asked to stop making adjustments to steering. Thus, visual occlusions that 260 occurred when entering bends caused a natural lane departure. In order to standardize the 261 direction of lane departure in straight lines, a slight and imperceptible shift in the vehicle 262 heading was introduced when the visual occlusion occurred. Drivers recovered vision when 263 lane departure was imminent (when one of the vehicle wheels crossed a virtual line situated 264 60 cm from the edge line): this is precisely the point at which the driving assistance device 265 was put into action. Experimental scenarios were structured in such a way that no oncoming vehicle was present just before and after a visual occlusion. Two occlusions were positioned 266 267 in bends of similarly large curvatures (300 m on the left bend and 225 m on the right bend), 268 one leading to lane departure to the right, the other to the left. The others took place in straight lines, also in two directions. Thus, they could occur at four different positions, but only two 269 270 occurred randomly per lap. They were, therefore, relatively unpredictable. Although some of 271 the participants might have learned to some extent the positions of the visual occlusions 272 through the repetition of trials, it should be noted that the direction of lane departure remained 273 completely unpredictable in straight lines. However, in bends, an early assessment of the bend 274 direction might have allowed to guess the side of the lane departure. This will be addressed in 275 the discussion.

276 2.5. Data analyses

Three indicators of steering performance were analyzed. First, the duration of lane excursion (DLE) corresponded to the effectiveness of MP in terms of safety. It has been computed as

279 the time spent outside the safety envelope of \pm 80 cm from the lane centre, after the triggering 280 of MP. The two other variables were computed to more precisely describe the effect of MP on 281 steering wheel control. The steering reaction time (SRT) corresponded to the time that elapsed 282 between the triggering of the assistance device and the point at which drivers began to act on 283 the steering wheel. Finally, the maximum steering wheel rotation speed (SWRS) was used as 284 an indicator of the strength of the driver's motor response. It was computed during the 450 ms 285 that follow the start of the steering response. Figure 5 represents the relationship between all 286 dependent variables that were analyzed to assess performance.

287 288

289 < INSERT FIGURE 3 HERE >

290 291 Right bends and left bends revealed very similar patterns of results with no significant 292 difference observed irrespective of the variable that was considered. Similarly, results for 293 right and left departures in straight lines were qualitatively close. So, analyses were regrouped in both cases. The significance of the effects of all independent variables was assessed for 294 295 DLE, SRT, SWRS by repeated measures ANOVAs with an embedded factor for the 296 counterbalancing of orders. Dependent t-tests have been used for pairwise comparisons. For 297 analyses with more than two comparisons, the quadratic means (1) was used. In addition, the 298 population effects sizes were evaluated on the basis of fiducial inference. Fiducial inference 299 (Rouanet and Lecoutre 1983, Rouanet 1996, Lecoutre and Poitevineau 2005) is a variant of 300 Bayesian statistical inference, aimed at concluding on the population effect size (δ) on the 301 basis of the observed effect (d), the sample size and variability. It goes beyond the test of significance, which only concludes in terms of the existence of a non-null effect. In this paper, 302 303 we will give conclusions on effect sizes with a guarantee of .90. For example " $\delta > 20$ " will 304 mean "the probability for δ being greater than 20 is .90". Paired comparisons tested the effects 305 of the two levels of MP strength relative to the condition without assistance.

306 **3. Results**

Visual occlusions lasted 2.3 s on average in bends (SD=0.28) and 2.1 s in straight lines (SD=0.25). There was no significant difference in duration of occlusion between the different experimental conditions (strength x direction). All but four visual occlusions led to road departures. In those four trials, the drivers managed to steer the vehicle back toward the lane centre just before the vehicle crossed the edge line. This happened in straight lines only when MP was present (2 with light MP and 2 with strong MP).

- 313 *3.1. Duration of Lateral Excursion (DLE)*
- 314 315

< INSERT FIGURE 4 HERE >

- 316
- 317 Table 1 Analyses performed on the Duration of Lateral excursion (DLE), in seconds

VariableComparisonI or dFiducial inferenceTestLoS
--

DLE on bends	S.D	l=0.41		F(2,24)=13.11	p=0.0001*
	(s0 vs s1&s2) for C	d=-0.26	δ <-0.17	t(12)=3.90	p=0.0021*
	(s1 vs s2) for C	d=-0.05	δ <0.19	t(12)=0.51	p=0.6168
	(s0 vs s1&s2) for I	d=-0.57	$\delta < -0.44$	t(12)=6.10	p=0.0001*
	(s1 vs s2) for I	d=-0.51	δ <-0.41	t(12)=6.96	p=0.0001*
	D for s1	d=-0.01	δ <0.14	t(12) = 0.05	p=0.9587
	D for s2	d=-0.46	δ <-0.34	t(12) = 5.32	p=0.0002*
DLE on straight lines	S.D	1=0.47		F(2,24)=23.78	p=0.0001*
	(s0 vs s1&s2) for C	d=0.07	δ <0.14	t(12)=-1.21	p=0.2479
	(s1 vs s2) for C	d=0.17	δ <0.27	t(12) = -2.02	p=0.0668
	(s0 vs s1&s2) for I	d=-0.38	δ <-0.27	t(12)=4.67	p=0.0005*
	(s1 vs s2) for I	d=-0.26	δ <-0.15	t(12)=3.22	p=0.0074*
	D for s1	d=-0.22	δ <-0.13	t(12)=3.38	p=0.0027*
	D for s2	d=-0.64	δ <-0.51	t(12)=6.55	p=0.0001*

319 Note: S: strength (s0=without assistance, s1=light MP, s2=strong MP); D: direction (I=ipsilateral, 320 C=contralateral). For example, s0 vs s1&s2 for I tests the difference between the condition without assistance 321 and the two MP conditions considered together when MP was ipsilateral.

322

323 The DLE without assistance was, on average, 2.27 s in bends and 1.9 s in straight lines. The 324 strength (S) and the direction (D) of MP showed a significant interaction in bends and in 325 straight lines (Table 1 and Fig. 4).

326 In bends, both ipsilateral MP ($\delta < -0.44$ s) and contralateral MP ($\delta < -0.17$ s) notably reduced the

327 DLE compared to the control condition. For light MP, the difference between ipsilateral and contralateral MP was negligible ($|\delta| < 0.14$ s). However, an ipsilateral strong MP reduced the 328 329 DLE significantly more than a contralateral strong MP (δ <-0.34 s). Strong MP reduced DLE 330 significantly more than light MP when it was ipsilateral ($\delta < -0.41$ s), but not when it was

331 contralateral ($|\delta| < 0.19$ s).

332 In straight lines, only ipsilateral (light and strong) MP notably reduced the DLE (δ <-0.27 s).

333 Contralateral MP had no significant effect and can be described as negligible ($|\delta| < 0.14$ s).

334 Thus, the effect of the direction is significant for both light and strong MP. The difference is 335 notable with light MP (δ <-0.13 s) and even more with strong MP (δ <-0.51 s). A corollary of 336 these results is that strong MP reduced DLE significantly more than light MP when it was

337 ipsilateral ($\delta < -0.15$ s), but not when it was contralateral ($|\delta| < 0.27$ s).

338 In sum, the device reduced the DLE in bends, irregardless of the direction of MP, whereas a 339 reduction of the DLE was observed in straight lines only with ipsilateral MP.

- 340
- 341

3.2. Steering Reaction Time (SRT)

- 342 < INSERT FIGURE 5 HERE >
- 343

344 Table 2 - Analyses performed on the Steering Reaction Time (SRT), in milliseconds

Variable	Comparison	l or d	Fiducial inference	Test	LoS
SRT on bends	S.D	l=61.4		F(2,24)=13.91	p=0.0001*
	(s0 vs s1&s2) for C	d=-155.6	δ <-137.5	t(12)=11.66	p=0.0001*
	(s1 vs s2) for C	d=-33.3	δ <-22.2	t(12)=4.06	p=0.0016*
	(s0 vs s1&s2) for I	d=-80.6	δ <-67.5	t(12)=8.37	p=0.0001*
	(s1 vs s2) for I	d=-27.8	δ <-13.2	t(12)=2.58	p=0.0240*
	D for s1	d=72.2	δ>51.0	t(12)=4.54	p=0.0001*
	D for s2	d=77.8	δ>62.6	t(12)=6.95	p=0.0001*

SRT on straight lines	S.D	l=94.0		F(2,24)=14.39	p=0.0001*
	(s0 vs s1&s2) for dC	d=-124.3	δ <-92.6	t(12)=5.32	p=0.0002*
	(s1 vs s2) for dC	d=-45.8	δ <-23.7	t(12)=2.81	p=0.0158*
	(s0 vs s1&s2) for dI	d=-12.5	δ <27.9	t(12)=1.11	p=0.2879
	(s1 vs s2) for dI	d=-13.9	δ <33.8	t(12)=0.96	p=0.3549
	D for s1	d=72.2	δ>53.3	t(12)=5.17	p=0.0001*
	D for s2	d=104.2	$\delta > 80.4$	t(12)=5.95	p=0.0001*

Note: S: strength (s0=without assistance, s1=light MP, s2=strong MP); D: direction (I=ipsilateral,
 C=contralateral). For example, s0 vs s1&s2 for I tests the difference between the condition without assistance
 and the two MP conditions considered together when MP was ipsilateral.

349

The SRT without assistance was, on average, 481 ms in bends and 458 ms in straight lines. The strength (S) and the direction (D) of MP showed a significant interaction in bends and in straight lines (Table 2 and Fig. 5).

353 In bends, both ipsilateral MP (δ <-67.5 ms) and contralateral MP (δ <-137.5 ms) notably

reduced the SRT compared with the control condition. Strong MP significantly reduced SRT more than light MP when it was ipsilateral (δ <-13.2 ms) or contralateral (δ <-22.2 ms). SRT

with contralateral MP were significantly lower than SRT with ipsilateral MP, both for light $(\delta > 51.0 \text{ ms})$ and strong MP ($\delta > 62.6 \text{ ms}$).

In straight lines, only contralateral MP notably reduced the SRT (δ <-92.6 ms). The effect of ipsilateral MP was non-significant and negligible ($|\delta|$ <27.9 ms). As a consequence, SRT with contralateral MP were significantly lower than SRT with ipsilateral MP, both for light (δ >53.3 ms) and strong MP (δ >80.4 ms). The difference between light and strong contralateral MP was notable (δ <-23.7 ms).

In sum, MP reduced SRT in bends, whatever its strength and direction, but the effect of contralateral MP was larger. In straight lines, the reduction of SRT was only observed with contralateral MP.

366

3.3. Steering Wheel Rotation Speed (SWRS)

367

368 < INSERT FIGURE 6 HERE >

369

370 Table 3 - Analyses performed on the Steering Wheel Rotation Speed (SWRS), in degrees per second

Variable	Comparaison	l or d	Fiducial inference	Test	LoS
SWRS on bends	S.D	l=26.10		F(2,24)=1.38	p=0.2702
	S	l=77.64		F(2,24)=54.63	p=0.0001*
	D	d=-08.98	no gen.	t(12)=-0.96	p=0.3559
	(s0 vs s1&s2) for C	d=60.03	$\delta > 44.80$	t(12)=5.35	p=0.0002*
	(s1 vs s2) for C	d=59.72	$\delta > 39.00$	t(12)=3.91	p=0.0021*
	(s0 vs s1&s2) for I	d=81.08	δ >62.58	t(12)=5.94	p=0.0001*
	(s1 vs s2) for I	d=87.50	δ >64.62	t(12)=5.19	p=0.0002*
	D for s1	d=-2.11	δ <10.93	t(12)=-0.36	p=0.7229
	D for s2	d=29.89	no gen.	t(12)=1.21	p=0.2479
SWRS on straight lines	S.D	l=31.81		F(2,24)=3.94	p=0.0330*
	(s0 vs s1&s2) for C	d=62.36	δ>53.43	t(12)=9.47	p=0.0001*
	(s1 vs s2) for C	d=55.17	δ >36.18	t(12)=3.94	p=0.0020*
	(s0 vs s1&s2) for I	d=97.31	δ>80.22	t(12)=7.72	p=0.0001*
	(s1 vs s2) for I	d=75.06	δ >58.92	t(12)=6.31	p=0.0001*
	D for s1	d=24.17	δ>12.36	t(12)=2.78	p=0.0168*
	D for s2	d=44.06	δ>18.54	t(12)=2.34	p=0.0373*

- Note: S: strength (s0=without assistance, s1=light MP, s2=strong MP); D: direction (I=ipsilateral,
 C=contralateral). For example, s0 vs s1&s2 for I tests the difference between the condition without assistance
 and the two MP conditions considered together when MP was ipsilateral.
- 375

The SWRS without assistance was, on average, 201°/s in bends and 138°/s in straight lines. The strength (S) and the direction (D) of MP showed a significant interaction in straight lines but not in bends (Table 3 and Fig. 6).

- 379 In bends, both ipsilateral MP ($\delta > 62.58^{\circ}/s$) and contralateral MP ($\delta > 44.8^{\circ}/s$) notably increased
- 380 the SWRS compared with the control condition. For light and strong MP, the difference
- 381 between the ipsilateral and contralateral MP was not significant. The difference between light
- and strong MP was notable for ipsilateral MP ($\delta > 64.62^{\circ}/s$) and contralateral MP ($\delta > 39.00^{\circ}/s$).
- 383 In straight lines, both ipsilateral MP ($\delta > 80.22^{\circ}/s$) and contralateral MP ($\delta > 53.4^{\circ}/$) notably
- increased the SWRS compared with the control condition. Moreover, the SWRS was higher with ipsilateral MP than with contralateral MP for light MP (δ >12.36°/s) and for strong MP (δ >18.54°/s). The difference between light and strong MP was notable for ipsilateral MP
- 387 (δ >58.92°/s) and contralateral MP (δ >36.18°/s).
- 388 In sum, MP increased the SWRS, whatever the direction, both in bends and in straight lines.
- 389 The SWRT was higher in the ipsilateral condition, but this difference was only significant in
- 390 straight lines.

391 3.4. Post-test debriefing

Post-test debriefing revealed that none of the drivers perceived that the direction of MP was
 manipulated. They were not aware that MP was sometimes directed away from the lane
 centre, even with strong MP.

395 4. Discussion and conclusions

396 The aim of the present paper was to investigate how different strengths and directions of MP 397 determine steering behaviour during lane departure recovery. At the centre of the study was 398 the question of drivers' ability to control the effects of MP when directional pulses are 399 delivered on the steering wheel. In summary, the results confirm that light ipsilateral MP, as 400 originally proposed by Navarro et al. (2007), reduces the duration of lateral excursion. This is 401 due to a small reduction in steering reaction times and an increase in steering wheel rotation 402 speed. This pattern of results was also observed, and could even be seen to have increased, 403 when ipsilateral MP delivered steering pulses of much higher intensity. Thus, no 404 compensatory reaction was observed. When contralateral MP was used, a larger reduction in 405 steering reaction times was observed. However, the execution of the corrective response was 406 not as efficient as with ipsilateral MP, as attested by a significantly smaller reduction in lane 407 departure duration. The following discussion will first address the question of the nature of 408 the MP-induced response, excluding the hypothesis of a compensatory reflex reaction to the 409 steering pulses. The role of the symbolic processes in the determination of the response will 410 also be considered. Then, we will specifically discuss the reduction of SRT with contralateral 411 MP. Finally, we will address some potential limitations of the study and conclude in terms of 412 ergonomics and safety recommendations.

413 *4.1. Initialization of the correction versus compensatory reaction*

414 In all cases, drivers turned the steering wheel in the appropriate direction, whatever the 415 strength or direction of MP. This demonstrates that the drivers always took into account the 416 visually perceived driving context when orienting their steering wheel movement. This 417 contrasts with the results of Suzuki and Jansson (2003) in which frequent errors were 418 reported. It should be noted however that those erroneous responses could be attributed to a 419 lack of information to the participants. The frequency of errors drastically diminished when 420 the drivers were informed that pulses on the steering wheel would be delivered. It may also be 421 explained by the difference between the simple pulses used by Suzuki and Jansson (2003) and 422 the asymmetric bidirectional pulses of MP. Nevertheless, it was legitimate to ask whether 423 MP-induced response could be inhibited, for example in cases of system error. Furthermore, 424 on the basis of an observed reduction of reaction times, Kullack et al. (2008) proposed that a 425 jerk of the steering wheel in the direction of lane departure may elicit a more efficient reflex 426 response in the opposite direction. Our results do not support this idea. MP might have 427 elicited small myotatic reflex responses in the arms, which could not be observed without any 428 EMG recording, but it did not give rise to inappropriate steering responses. The steering 429 wheel movements, even with pulses of high intensity, were always a function of the visually 430 perceived situation, even very early in their execution. In that sense, the responses we 431 observed cannot be considered as involuntary steering responses to a haptic stimulus.

432 Besides, this study demonstrated that MP should not be reduced to its effects on reaction 433 times. It is essential to consider the whole correction manoeuvre to evaluate benefits in terms 434 of safety. Even though ipsilateral MP did not reduce SRT as much as contralateral MP, it gave rise to sharper responses, as seen on the SWRS, and in the reduced time spent in a 435 436 dangerous lateral position. Thus, it is clearly apparent that MP helped to initiate and execute 437 the corrective gesture. Furthermore, considering that a reduction of the DLE is the most 438 important indicator of safety improvement, orienting the steering pulses in the expected 439 direction of movement is the best strategy for the design of such devices. In a case of erroneous indication, consequences may not be critical, since the direction of the response 440 441 seemed to be always determined in accordance with the analysis of the driving context. In 442 other words, the supervision of routines rapidly became efficient. This is in line with the 443 observations reported by Deroo et al. (2012), who showed that risk expectation (processed at 444 the symbolic level) could be evidenced on SWRS very early during the response execution. 445 However, they found no effect of risk expectation on SRT, which suggests that this 446 movement parameter mainly depends on subsymbolic control.

447

4.2. Effect on steering reaction times with contralateral MP

448 Ipsilateral MP only marginally improved SRT. The reduction was small in bends and 449 negligible in straight lines. By contrast, contralateral MP markedly accelerated the drivers' responses. Thus, the drivers did more than just inhibit the responses suggested by 450 451 contralateral MP. They countered the device when it indicated the wrong direction, with even 452 shorter reaction times than with ipsilateral MP. In that sense, the results reported by Kullack 453 et al. (2008) were replicated. However, they cannot be attributed to the reflexive nature of the 454 response since the direction of the response was in full voluntary control, i.e the direction of 455 the stimulus only did not determine the direction of the response. The question remains to 456 know why SRT, which were shown to be unaffected by symbolic control (Deroo et al. 2012), were smaller with contralateral MP. It could be the case that as soon as the visual occlusion 457 ended, drivers immediately perceived a mismatch between their vision of the vehicle's motion 458 459 (heading outside the lane) and the direction of the haptic cue (prompting the hand to steer the 460 vehicle even further in the wrong direction). It can be hypothesized that this sensory 461 mismatch was processed at the subsymbolic level and gave rise to a faster response than when 462 MP was compatible with visual information. It might be considered as an equivalent to the socalled negative compatibility effect. In laboratory settings, shorter reaction times are usually 463 464 observed when a delay (typically 150 ms) is introduced between a subliminal prime (an early 465 indication of the direction of the expected response) and the target (Boy & Summer, 2010; Eimer & Schlaghecken, 2003; Sumner, 2007; Wilson, Tresilian & Schlaghecken, 2010).
Driving a car is obviously a much more complex task than the previous paradigm. However,
the time needed to process visual information on the car heading may correspond to the delay
between priming and decision-making typically associated with negative compatibility
effects. Obviously, this interpretation is quite speculative and further experiments should be
conducted to test it.

472 *4.3. Limitations of the study*

473 This study presents some potential limitations that will be addressed now. First, the visual 474 occlusion method was chosen because it allowed experimental control of the timing and 475 positioning of lane departure events. This was essential in order to assess the effects of MP 476 strength and direction independently of any contextual factors. This goal has been achieved as 477 almost all occlusions led to road departure without loss of control. However, it could be 478 argued that the ecological validity of this method is weak and that other methods exist, such 479 as the introduction of a secondary task to distract the driver. As a matter of fact, Navarro and 480 colleagues showed very comparable results when studying MP and other lane departure 481 warning systems using visual occlusions (Navarro et al. 2007) and a secondary task (Navarro 482 et al. 2010), although distraction gave rise to more variability in the severity of lane 483 departures. Still, visual occlusions occurred repeatedly and it could be argued the drivers 484 learned to monitor the driving environment in order to prepare themselves for the moment the 485 scene disappeared. This cannot be excluded and raises the issue of lane departure 486 predictability. Although visual occlusions did not occur at the same road positions across 487 trials, we cannot exclude that the drivers learned their positions to some extent by the end of 488 the experiment. However, that does not make the consequence of the occlusion predictable, at 489 least not in straight lines, since, in that case, the direction of lane departure varied for a given 490 position. In bends, if the participant was carefully monitoring the driving scene before the 491 occlusion, he or she might have determined the direction of the upcoming bend and the 492 appropriate response to execute. Then again, this was the case in all conditions, in which 493 differences in terms of safety improvement were observed.

As mentioned in the procedure, all drivers in the present study had already participated to 494 495 another experiment on MP (Deroo et al. 2012). In that experiment, the participants 496 experienced light and strong MP like in the present study, but MP was always ipsilateral. One 497 could legitimately wonder whether that previous experience created a familiarization to 498 ipsilateral MP, which might make the comparison with contralateral MP difficult. However, it 499 is important to note that these experiments were not conducted in close succession. The time 500 between the experiments varied across participants between 4 and 10 days. Moreover, if the 501 drivers had actually been trained to respond in the direction of the haptic cue, the first exposure to contralateral MP would most probably have been yielded inappropriate 502 503 responses, such as steering in the wrong direction. Following those first trials with 504 contralateral MP, the drivers would have learned that MP was not always ipsilateral and the 505 difference between ipsilateral and contralateral MP should have quickly disappeared. However, we did not observe such a pattern of result. Thus, the presence of the previous 506 507 experiment can hardly explain the observed difference between the two directions of MP.

508 5. Conclusions and ergonomics recommendations

509 This study confirmed that driving assistance devices that deliver torque pulses on the steering 510 wheel can markedly improve the execution of recovery manoeuvres during lane departure 511 episodes. It was established that the response consecutive to the device action always 512 remained under the control of symbolic processes and could not be considered as reflexive, 513 even when steering pulses were quite strong. The fastest reaction times were observed with 514 strong contralateral pulses. However, these did not translate into increased safety benefits. 515 Hence, a reduction in reaction times should not be an objective per se. Our results support the 516 MP principle, according to which haptic cues delivered on the steering wheel should aim at 517 indicating to the arm motor system the direction of the movement to be executed. The motor 518 system may improve reaction times, but also, and more importantly, the early execution of the 519 corrective manoeuvre.

520 Although increasing the strength of ipsilateral MP yielded shorter duration of lane excursion, 521 it should not be concluded from this study that pulses of 6 N/m or higher need to be used. 522 Navarro et al. (2010) compared the acceptance of MP and other lane departure warning 523 systems after repetitive exposure to them. In general, the acceptance of all systems was poor, 524 most probably due the frequency of intervention of the devices. However, it should be noted 525 that, even though MP delivered mild steering pulses, drivers judged it as more intrusive and 526 therefore less acceptable. Although it remains to be tested, it is likely that a stronger 527 intervention would be even more rejected. On the other hand, this kind of device may be 528 designed only for situations that become so critical an emergency response is required. If the 529 automation intervention is restricted to these rare occurrences, the strength of the haptic cue 530 may be set higher, with efficiency being sought more than acceptance. It could be argued, 531 however, that fully automated countermeasures are preferable to trying to influence the 532 behaviour of drivers in very critical situations.

533 Finally, it may be wise to calibrate the device action as a function of the level of attention or 534 vigilance. MP was originally designed for situations in which the driver is distracted, but in 535 full possession of his senses. This raises the question of how a drowsy driver (for example, 536 drunk or sleepy) would respond to the unexpected action of an MP-like device, something 537 that should be investigated.

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- Fig. 1. Illustration of the different degrees of intervention on a driver's cognitive processeswith classic LDWS and MP systems.



Fig. 2. Illustration of the four conditions in which MP was active during near lane departure
on the right. The MP strength was either 2 N/m (light MP) or 6 N/m (strong MP). MP was
oriented toward the lane centre (ipsilateral MP) or toward the side of lane departure
(contralateral MP).



Fig. 3. The three variables; 1. Steering Reaction Time (SRT); 2. Maximum Steering Wheel
Rotation Speed (SWRS); 3. Duration of Lateral Excursion (DLE).



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 Fig. 4. Duration of lateral excursion in bends and in straight lines. Error bars represent
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Fig. 5. Steering reaction times in bends and in straight lines. Error bars represent standard errors of means.

















