

Multiple Measures of Driver Workload according to Takeover Request Lead Time in Conditionally Autonomous Driving

Yong Deok Yun, Hyung Seok Oh, Rohae Myung

Korea University, Department of Industrial Management Engineering, Seoul, 02841

Corresponding Author

Rohae Myung

Korea University, Department of Industrial Management Engineering, Seoul, 02841

Email : rmyung@korea.ac.kr

Received : November 20, 2019

Revised : November 26, 2019

Accepted : May 27, 2020

Objective: The aim of this study is to investigate the effect of Takeover request lead time (TORIt) on several measures of workload and dissociation among the measures.

Background: Autonomous driving has received considerable attention and takeover request (TOR) is one of the major issues in autonomous driving. A human driver must be ready to transfer the control of the vehicle when TOR is given. Therefore, it is important how and when to request driver to transfer the control. In this regard, TORIt have received great attention and there are many existing scholarly works about effect of TORIt on takeover performance. Inappropriate TORIt make driver overload or underload and the abnormal workload deteriorate driver performance in takeover situation.

Method: Experiment with driving simulator was conducted. TORIt was controlled in 7 levels (3s, 7s, 10s, 15s, 30s, 45s, 60s) and driver workload was measured by both subjective and physiological methods. Driving Activity Load Index (DALI) was conducted to measure subjective workload and respiration rate (RSP), heart rate (HR), and galvanic skin response (GSR) was used to measure objective workload.

Results: TORIt had a significant effect on subjective workload. The result of subjective workload showed that workload and TORIt has a negative relationship. There was also a significant effect of TORIt on GSR. GSR was increased as TORIt increased because of frustration that made by long TORIt. On the other hand, there were no significant effects of TORIt on respiration rate and heart rate.

Conclusion: As the workload changes according to TORIt, TORIt is an important factor to be considered in takeover situation. Moreover, multiple measures of workload should be used to investigate workload in takeover situation because there is dissociation among measures.

Application: Workload could be used to evaluate takeover performance of drivers. The results of this paper suggest multiple measures including subjective methods and physiological signals be used to assess driver performance in takeover situation.

Keywords: Conditionally Autonomous driving (CAD), Takeover Request (TOR), Takeover Request lead time (TORIt), Subjective workload, Physiological measures

1. Introduction

Autonomous driving is one of the most interesting technology in recent years with expectation of solving problems caused by automobiles such as accidents, pollution,

and traffic jams (Cho et al., 2013; Singh, 2018; Schrank et al., 2012). However, current autonomous vehicles cannot handle all driving situations. Therefore, it requires drivers to intervene in certain situations. SAE international defined these levels of autonomous driving as partial (level 2) and conditional (level 3) autonomous driving (SAE International, 2016).

In level 3 autonomous driving, drivers are not required to monitor the driving situations and they may perform non-driving related tasks (NDRTs). However, drivers must pay attention to driving situation and make an appropriate reaction when takeover request (TOR) occurs. In order for the driver to make an appropriate reaction, how drivers are informed about takeover situation becomes crucial. Therefore, many existing scholarly works investigated characteristics of TOR such as takeover request lead time (TORlt; Gold et al., 2013; Gold et al., 2018; Eriksson and Stanton, 2017; Mok et al., 2015; Mok et al., 2017) and modalities (Bazilinskyy et al., 2018; Petermeijer et al., 2017; Wan and Wu, 2018; Yun et al., 2018).

Takeover request lead time (TORlt), also called time budget, is one of the main factors affecting driving performance in a takeover situation. In a manual driving situation, if sufficient time is given before the reaction, drivers can interpret the situation and make appropriate decisions (Abe and Richardson, 2004; Abe and Richardson, 2005), vice versa. This is applicable in autonomous driving domain as well. In autonomous driving domain, if insufficient TORlt is given to drivers, they cannot handle the takeover situation appropriately (Gold et al., 2013; Gold et al., 2018; Mok et al., 2015; Mok et al., 2017; Payre et al., 2016; Van den Beukel and Van der Voort, 2013; Wan and Wu, 2018; Zhang et al., 2018). On the other hand, longer TORlt allows drivers to react appropriately. However, TOR with excessively long lead time can be interpreted as a false alarm. Therefore, drivers can be distracted and delay their response until the situation become critical (Wan and Wu, 2018; Wilde, 1982). Therefore, it is necessary to design a TOR with an optimal range of time budget for safer performance while transition of control.

Besides its impact on takeover performance, TORlt also has an effect on driver workload (Eriksson and Stanton, 2017; Wan and Wu, 2018). Driver workload has a considerable influence on driving performance and can either overload or underload it. Such overload or underload can cause deterioration in driving performance (Brookhuis and de Waard, 2010; da Silva, 2014; de Waard and Brookhuis, 1997). In parallel with the manual driving domain, many researchers investigated driver workload in autonomous driving domain (de Winter et al., 2014; Eriksson and Stanton, 2017; Hajek et al., 2013; Wan and Wu, 2018). However, these studies either did not investigate workload induced by TOR or measure driver workload in a subjective method.

This study focused on workload induced by TOR. Many researches have focused on overall workload or workload while performing NDRT alone because they considered that demanding NDRTs make takeover performance (De Winter et al., 2014; Eriksson and Stanton, 2017). However, according to Wan and Wu (2018), takeover request without sufficient time budget may increase driver workload and generate erratic driver response. Workload increased by TOR is a critical factor that affects takeover performance. Therefore, it is necessary to investigate workload induced by workload.

Additionally, a few researches that assessed workload induced by TOR used subjective methods. Workload is measured through a survey at the end of experiments. Therefore, it is not a suitable for measuring workload in dynamic situations such as driving. Unlike subjective measures, workload quantified by physiological signals can be measured and analyzed in real time, which makes workload more applicable in driving situations. Also, there could be dissociation among workload measures (Wickens et al., 2015). Each measure is sensitive to different aspect of the task. Hence, physiological signals as well as subjective measure were used to measure driver workload.

The objective of this study is to investigate the effects of TORlt on driver workload in takeover situation. This study hypothesizes that workload would increase as TORlt is too short or too long. To investigate the hypothesis, an experiment was conducted with driving simulator and workload was measured by subjective and objective method.

2. Method

2.1 Participants

Twenty-eight participants (23 males, 5 females) between the age of 20 and 31 years old ($M = 25.32$, $SD = 2.67$) were recruited from Korea University. All participants had valid driver's licenses and had normal or corrected-to-normal vision. Before the experiment, all participants signed written informed consent and received instructions. Participants were compensated with \$18 for participation.

2.2 Apparatus

The experimental environment was designed using OpenDS 4.5 driving simulator and presented on a 45-inch Samsung TV monitor. Participants controlled the driving simulator through Logitech G25 steering wheel, pedal, controller and performed an NDRT via iPad mini during autonomous driving. Autonomous driving system was operated with the button on the controller. Participants could turn the autonomous driving system on and off according to the driving situation. Participants' physiological signals were recorded with MP100 from Biopac.

2.3 Driving scenario

The experiment was simulated in two-lane highway environment (see Figure 1). The ego-vehicle was driving in the second lane and there were three vehicles in the first lane and no vehicle in the second lane. In the takeover situation, concurrent with starting point of TOR, an obstacle appears in the driver's lane. Drivers must take a lane change into the first lane in order to avoid the collision. After the lane change, drivers return to the second lane and drive until they are stabilized. When drivers are stabilized, they turn off autonomous driving system and complete the subjective workload rating.

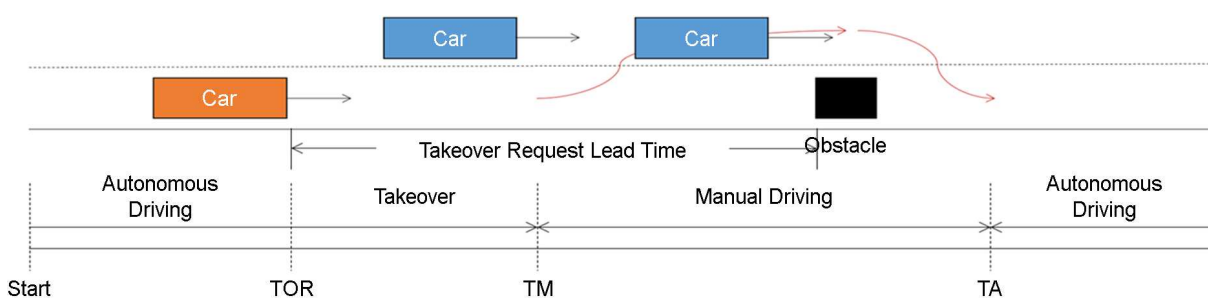


Figure 1. Schematic illustration of the sequence of the takeover process. The orange car is the participants' car. After the TOR, the participant monitors the situation and responds to the request. Then participant passes the obstacle by changing the lane manual (Yun and Myung, 2019)

2.4 Experiment design

TORIt was set as an independent variable to investigate the effects of TORIt on driver workload in conditional autonomous driving. The levels of TORIt was chosen according to existing literature about TORIt (Eriksson and Stanton, 2017; Gold et al., 2013). Most of research sets TORIt between 3s to 10s. However, in this study, we also set longer TORIts to investigate driver behavior with enough time to take over. Therefore, TORIt was controlled in 7 levels (3s, 7s, 10s, 15s, 30s, 45s, 60s). Each session of the experiment dealt

with one TORIt level and was conducted in random sequence.

A dependent variable is driver workload measured by a subjective measure and physiological measures. Driving Activity Load Index (DALI; Pauzié, 2008) was conducted to measure subjective workload. DALI is a modified version of NASA-TLX to measure workload in driving situation. DALI has six dimensions including effort of attention, visual demand, auditory demand, temporal demand, interruption and situational stress (see Table 1) while NASA-TLX includes physical demand, mental demand, temporal demand, effort, performance, and frustration. Because the experiment is conducted in driving situation, DALI was performed in this study.

Table 1. DALI sub-dimensions and description (Pauzié, 2008)

Sub-dimensions	Description
Effort of attention	To evaluate the attention required by the activity - to think about, to decide, to choose, to look for and so on
Visual demand	To evaluate the visual demand necessary for the activity
Auditory demand	To evaluate the auditory demand necessary for the activity
Temporal demand	To evaluate the specific constraint owing to timing demand when running the activity
Interruption	To evaluate the possible disturbance when running the driving activity simultaneously with any other supplementary task such as phoning, using systems or radio and so on
Situational stress	To evaluate the level of constraints/stress while conducting the activity such as fatigue, insecure feeling, irritation, discouragement and so on

In addition, physiological measures were conducted to measure objective workload. Respiration rate (RSP), Heart rate (HR), and Galvanic skin response (GSR) were selected as physiological signals to measure objective workload. RSP, HR, and GSR were recorded with MP100 from Biopac, and sampled at 200HZ. According to Kramer (1991), RSP and HR represent general workload while GSR is sensitive to emotion and arousal. Through the experiment, workload from different measures were compared and analyzed.

In a session of the experiment, participants had to perform the NDRT during autonomous driving. Participants were required to touch a numbered ball in the ascending order as NDRT as shown in Figure 2. The visually demanding task was given in order to simulate conditionally autonomous driving, which drivers are not necessary to monitor the driving situation. Performance of the NDRT was not collected.



Figure 2. Capture of driving simulator display (left) and the NDRT display (right) (Yun and Myung, 2019)

3. Results

3.1 Subjective workload measured by DALI

The mean and standard deviation of the subjective workload measured by DALI are shown in Figure 3. To investigate the effect of TORIt on subjective workload, Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) was conducted using SAS 9.4. The result showed a significant effect of TORIt on subjective workload ($F(6, 189) = 16.24, p < 0.0001$). Also, LSD multiple comparison test was conducted, and the result suggests that shorter TORIt imposes a higher workload on the driver as shown in Figure 3. Specifically, subjective workload was significantly higher at 3s than other TORIt ($p < 0.0001$ for each pair-wise comparison); significantly higher at 7s than 30s ($p < 0.0001$), 45s ($p = 0.0008$), and 60s ($p = 0.0006$); significantly higher at 10s than 30s ($p = 0.0098$).

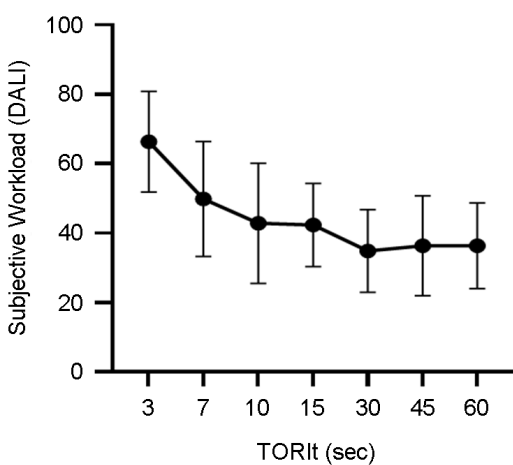


Figure 3. Result of subjective workload (DALI)

3.2 Objective workload measured by physiological measures

Driver workload after TOR was measured by physiological signals. Physiological signals were collected and analyzed until drivers avoid the obstacle. Mean of respiration rate (Mean RSP), Mean of Heart rate (Mean HR), Mean of galvanic skin response (Mean GSR) were used to assess driver workload. Physiological data were normalized in order to eliminate individual differences. To investigate the effect of TORIt on physiological measures, ANOVA was conducted using SAS 9.4.

3.2.1 Mean RSP

The mean and standard deviation of the objective workload measured by mean RSP are shown in Figure 4. ANOVA result indicated that there was no significant effect of TORIt on mean RSP ($F(6,189) = 1.23, p = 0.2935$).

3.2.2 Mean HR

The mean and standard deviation of the objective workload measured by mean HR are shown in Figure 5. ANOVA result indicated that there was no significant effect of TORIt on mean HR ($F(6,189) = 0.77, p = 0.5935$).

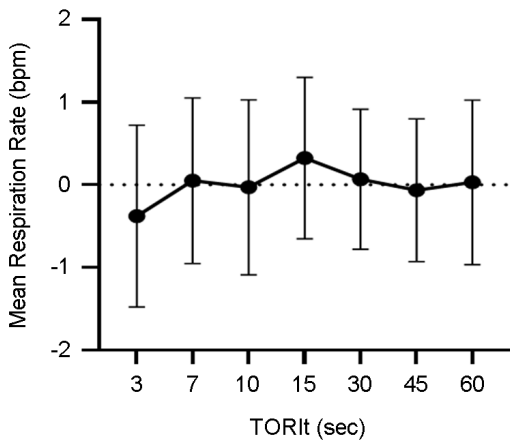


Figure 4. Result of mean respiration rate

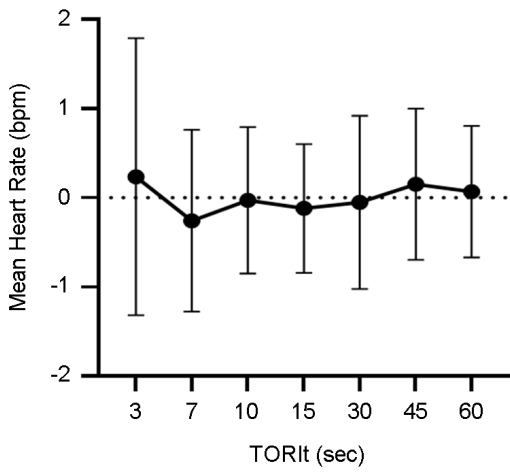


Figure 5. Result of mean heart rate

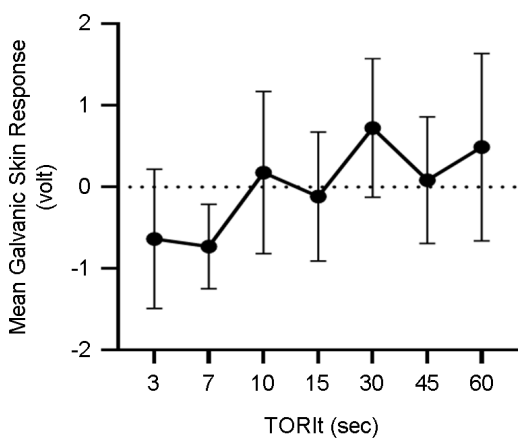


Figure 6. Result of mean galvanic skin response

3.2.3 Mean GSR

The mean and standard deviation of the objective workload measured by mean GSR are shown in Figure 6. The ANOVA results showed there was significant effect of TORIt on mean GSR ($F(6,189) = 10.51, p < 0.0001$) and as TORIt increases, mean GSR shows an increasing trend. According to LSD multiple comparison test, Mean GSR was significantly higher at 30s than others ($p < 0.001$) except 10s ($p = 0.0546$) and 60s ($p = 0.4741$).

4. Discussion

This study investigated the effect of TORIt on subjective and objective workload of drivers in takeover situation. In autonomous driving domain, many existing works investigated TORIt and workload. However, previous works have either focused on workload before TOR occur or used subjective measure for assess driver workload. However, his study focused on workload induced by TOR and presented various methods for measuring the driver workload.

Subjective workload is measured by Driver Activity Load Index. There was a significant effect of TORIt on the DALI score and subjective workload increases as TORIt become shorter. This result is consistent with the result of Wan and Wu (2018) which stated that driver's performance, such as crash rate and minimum time to collision, is deteriorated as TORIt increases. In this study, driver workload was increased in short TORIt as expected. Drivers, who were given the TOR with short lead time, did not have sufficient time to perceive and comprehend the driving situation and make an appropriate decision. As a result, drivers could not cope with the takeover situation and their workload increased. However, driver workload was not increased in excessively long TORIt. Long TORIt was expected to increase driver workload because driver could assume long TORIt as a false alarm or feel distraction (Wan and Wu, 2018). However, there was no significant difference in long TORIts (30s, 45s, 60s) in this study. Participants, who considered long TORIt as false alarm, would respond that their workload is high because they felt frustration and checked driving situation several time whether an obstacle is presented in the road. On the other hand, because the experiment is not real driving, some participants regarded the driving situation as a relaxed situation and their workload was low as TORIt increases. As a result, the different trends of workload are canceled out and there was no significant difference in subjective workload among long TORIts.

In addition, objective workload is measured by respiration rate (RSP), heart rate (HR), and galvanic skin response (GSR). There was no significant effect of TORIt on mean RSP and mean HR. The reason is that participants regarded driving situation after the takeover as simple driving task. In the experiment, participants just drove straight freeway after they passed the obstacle. This situation is too simple, so it is possible that even short TORIt could not impose workload on drivers. Unlike mean RSP and mean HR, TORIt had a significant effect on mean GSR. According to Kramer (1991), Physiological signals are sensitive to different resource demands (Kramer, 1991; Ryu and Myung, 2005). In this study, excessive temporal demand because of short TORIt and distraction caused by long TORIt were demands imposed on the participants. Hence, GSR which is sensitive to emotion and frustration (Kramer, 1991) was influenced by TORIt. In future researches, it is necessary to measure physiological signals while controlling various resource demand to investigate effect of TORIt on physiological signals extensively.

Finally, there is a limitation in this study. There is lack of diversity in participants. Participants are recruited from SNS, and university website, so participants were at a young age and had little driving experience. Different results would have been produced if the experiment was conducted to drivers with older age and more driving experience. Therefore, future research should include participants with a wide range of age and driving experience.

5. Conclusion

This study examined effect of TORIt on driver workload. Driver workload was measured by DALI subjective, and Physiological signals such as respiration, heart rate and galvanic skin response. We assumed that there would be quadratic or curvilinear relationship between TORIt and workload. However, the result showed that TORIt and workload did not have quadratic relationship. Subjective workload increases as TORIt decreases. Unlike subjective workload, physiological signals presented different relationship between TORIt. There were no significant effects of TORIt on respiration rate and heart rate while TORIt had a significant effect on galvanic skin response. Because each measure of workload is sensitive to different aspect of the situation, different workload was obtained depending on workload measures. Therefore, various workload measures are necessary for investigate workload in takeover situation.

Acknowledgement

This research was supported by a grant (code 19TLRP-B131486-03) from Transportation and Logistics R&D Program funded by Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport of Korean government and Basic Science Research Program through the National Research Foundation of Korea (NRF) funded by the Ministry of Education (NRF-2018R1D1A1A09084291).

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Author listings

Yong Deok Yun: yunyd1234@korea.ac.kr

Highest degree: Undergrad. Student, Department of Industrial Management Engineering, Korea University

Position title: Ph.D. Student, Department of Industrial Management Engineering, Korea University

Areas of interest: Cognitive modeling, Cognitive Architecture, Autonomous driving

Hyung Seok Oh: prohyung@korea.ac.kr

Highest degree: M.S. Student, Department of Industrial Management Engineering, Korea University

Position title: Ph.D. Candidate, Department of Industrial Management Engineering, Korea University

Areas of interest: Cognitive modeling, Cognitive Architecture, Autonomous driving

Rohae Myung: rmyung@korea.ac.kr

Highest degree: PhD, Department of Industrial Engineering, Texas Tech University

Position title: Professor, Department of Industrial Management Engineering, Korea University

Areas of interest: Cognitive modeling, Cognitive Architecture, Autonomous driving