



UNIVERSITÄT  
DUISBURG  
ESSEN

*Open-Minded*

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***Segmenting or self-explanation prompts –  
the impact on learning with non-algorithmic  
worked examples***

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- Theoretical Framework & Research Questions
- Participants & Design
- Learning Materials
- Procedure
- Results & Discussion

# Theoretical Framework & Research Questions

- **CLT** (Sweller, 2005), **CTML** (Mayer, 2009; 2014), **CATLM** (Moreno, 2005)
- **Worked example principle** (Renkl, 2014; Sweller & Cooper, 1985)
  - reduce extraneous processing
  - foster generative processing (Renkl, 2014)
- **Segmenting principle** (Gerjets, Scheiter, & Catrambone, 2006; Mayer, 2009; Renkl, 2013)
  - manage essential processing
  - pausing and temporal cueing (Spanjers, van Gog, Wouters, & van Merriënboer, 2012)
- **Self-explanation principle** (Renkl, 2014; Roy & Chi, 2005; Wylie & Chi, 2014)
  - foster generative processing
  - double edged effect of conceptual oriented prompting (Berthold, Röder, Knörzer, Kessler, & Renkl, 2011)

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## 1<sup>st</sup> Research Question:

How do

- segmentation (yes/no)
- prompting (yes/no)

influence

- cognitive load
- affective variables
- learning outcomes

when learning with non-algorithmic worked examples?

- one kind of short tasks (weekday problems)
- comparing ratings for each problem to one single rating at the end

## 1<sup>st</sup> Study (van Gog, Kirschner, Kester, & Paas, 2012)

- invested mental effort (Paas, 1992)

→ single ratings are higher than the average of multiple ratings

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Study (Schmeck, Opfermann, van Gog, Paas, & Leutner, 2015)

- invested mental effort (Paas, 1992)
- perceived task difficulty (Kalyuga, Chandler, Tuovinen, & Sweller, 2001)
- perceived interest (*"I like such puzzles and riddles"* (FAM), Rheinberg, Vollmeyer, & Burns, 2001)
- motivation (*"I would work on such problems in my free time"* (FAM), Rheinberg et al., 2001)

→ single ratings on cognitive load are higher than the average of multiple ratings

→ single ratings on affective variables do not differ from the average of multiple ratings

- one kind of short tasks (weekday problem)
- comparing ratings for each problem to other

## 1) van Gog, Kirschner, Kester, & Paas, 2001

- invested mental effort (Paas, 1992)

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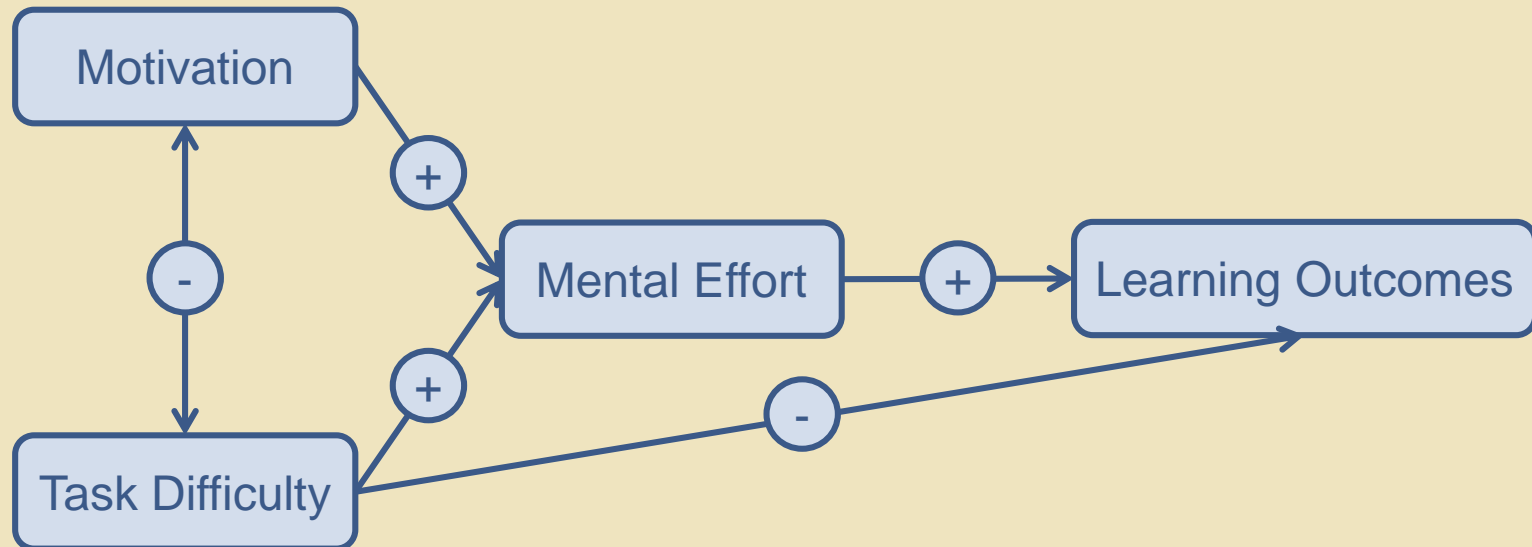
## 2<sup>nd</sup> Research Question:

How do

- invested mental effort
- perceived task difficulty
- motivation
- perceived understanding

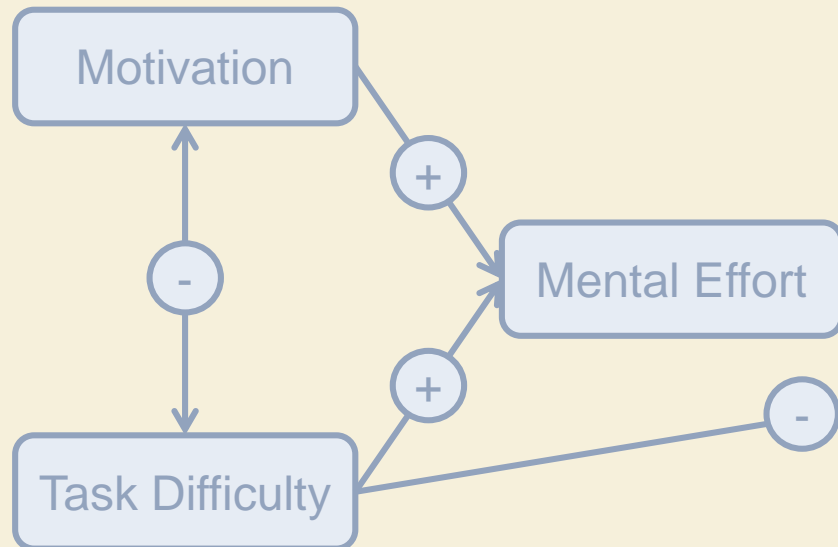
develop during studying one complex task?

# Relation of Cognitive and Affective Variables and Learning Outcomes



Stebner, Dicke, Köhl, Thillmann, Wirth, & Leutner, 2015



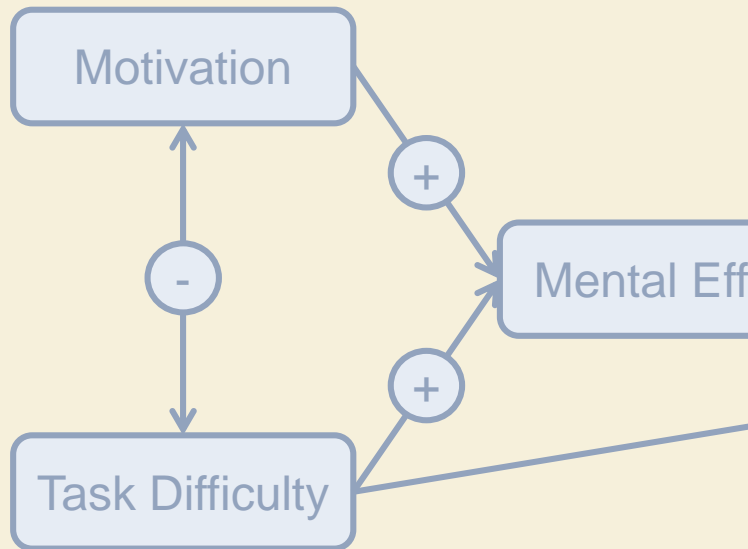


## 3<sup>rd</sup> Research Question:

How do multiple subjective ratings on

- perceived task difficulty
  - invested mental effort
  - motivation
  - perceived understanding
- relate to learning outcomes?

Stebner, Dicke, Köhl, Thillmann, Wirth, & Leutner, 2015



Stebner, Dicke, Köhl, Thillmann, Wirth, & Leutner, 2011

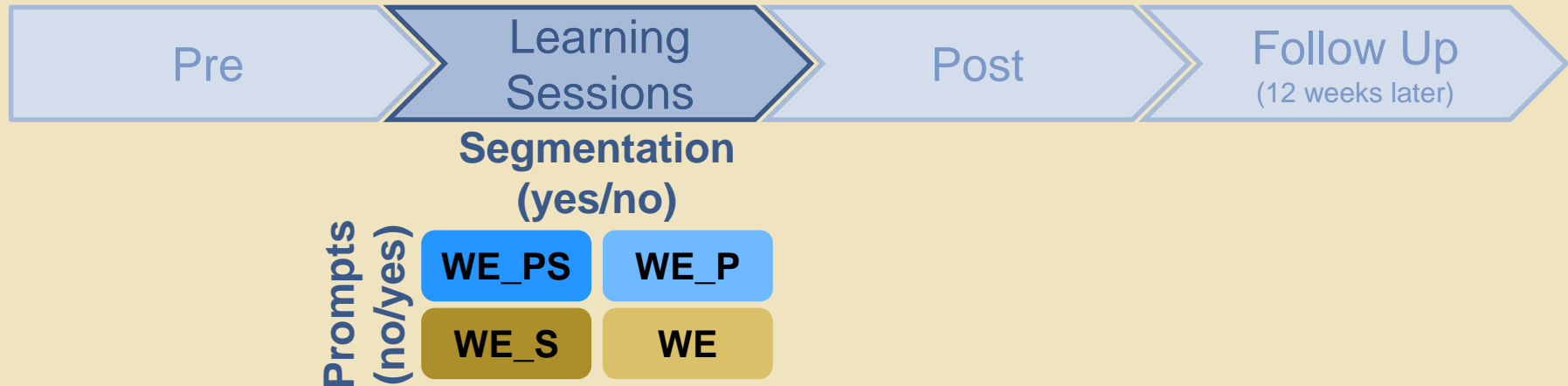
## 4<sup>th</sup> Research Question:

How does the relation between multiple subjective ratings on

- invested mental effort
- perceived task difficulty
- motivation
- perceived understanding

vary during studying one complex task?

# Participants & Design



- 3 learning sessions
  - 1 worked example
  - 60 minutes study time (maximum)
- participants
  - 436 students (9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> grade, German secondary schools (“Realschule” & “Gymnasium”), 49,8 % ♀,  $M_{age} = 14.17$ ,  $SD = .63$ , randomly assigned to conditions)
  - low prior knowledge on acids (*expertise reversal principle*, Kalyuga, 2014)

# Learning Materials

## Worked Example

### Cover Story

*realistic situation, authentic characters*

problem state



explanations of currently  
necessary content knowledge

questions /  
attempts to summarize



problem solution

- paper-based
- content: acids, development of a first conceptual understanding (Reimann, 1997; Stark, 1999)
- personalization principle (Mayer, 2009)
- model-observer similarity principle (Renkl, 2013)
- explanation-help principle (Berthold & Renkl, 2010; Stark, 1999; Renkl, 2013; 2014)
- studying-errors principle (Große & Renkl 2004; 2007; Renkl, 2013; 2014)
- multimedia principle (Mayer, 2009)
- spatial contiguity principle (Mayer, 2009)
- signaling principle, i. e. color coding (Kalyuga, Chandler, & Sweller, 1999; Mayer, 2009; Renkl, 2014; van Gog, 2014)
- example-set principle (Renkl, 2014)

## Worked Example

### Cover Story

*realistic situation, authentic characters*

problem state



explanations of currently  
necessary content knowledge

questions /  
attempts to summarize



problem solution

- offline prompt (Chi, De Leeuw, Chiu, & LaVancher, 1994)
- 2583-3967 words
- 14-33 pictures
- segmenting  
presenting small units of information on one page
- prompting  
asking learners to actively use parts of the newly acquired knowledge (anticipative reasoning) (Stark, 1999)

# Procedure



## Day 1 (pre-test)

- demographic questionnaire
- prior knowledge
  - paper-pencil
  - 33 Multiple-Choice Single-Select Items

## Day 2-4 (learning sessions)

- perceived task difficulty (Kalyuga et al., 2001)
- invested mental effort (Paas, 1992)
- perceived understanding
- motivation
  - 7-point scales
- learning time

## Day 5 (post-test)

- learning outcomes

*“Please estimate how well you understood the last text passage.”*

not at all

very well

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

## Day 1 (pre-test)

- demographic questionnaire
- prior knowledge

paper-pencil

33 Multiple-Choice Single-Select Items

## Day 2-4 (learning sessions)

- perceived task difficulty (Kalyuga et al., 2001)
  - invested mental effort (Paas, 1992)
  - perceived understanding
  - motivation
- 7-point scales
- learning time

## Day 5 (post-test)

- learning outcomes

*“Please estimate how well you understood the last text passage.”*

not at all

very well

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

*“I enjoyed reading the last text passage.”*

the reverse  
is true

applies

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

## Day 1 (pre-test)

- demographic questionnaire
- prior knowledge

paper-pencil

33 Multiple-Choice Single-Select Items

## Day 2-4 (learning sessions)

- perceived task difficulty (Kalyuga et al., 2001)
- invested mental effort (Paas, 1992)
- perceived understanding
- motivation

7-point scales

- learning time

## Day 5 (post-test)

- learning outcomes

	Function	Predomi- nantly ...	Prompts	Seg- ments
R1	introduction	cover story	0	1-2
R2	problem	cover story	1	1-2
R3	explanation of content knowledge	content knowledge	0	3-10
R4			1-2	1-3
R5	explanation of content knowledge	content knowledge	2-4	9-24
R6	reference to the problem	both	0	3-8
R7	decay	cover story	0	2-5

## Day 1 (pre-test)

- demographic questionnaire
- prior knowledge  
paper-pencil  
33 Multiple-Choice Single-Select Items

## Day 2-4 (learning sessions)

- perceived task difficulty (Kalyuga et al., 2001)
- invested mental effort (Paas, 1992)
- perceived understanding
- motivation  
7-point scales
- learning time

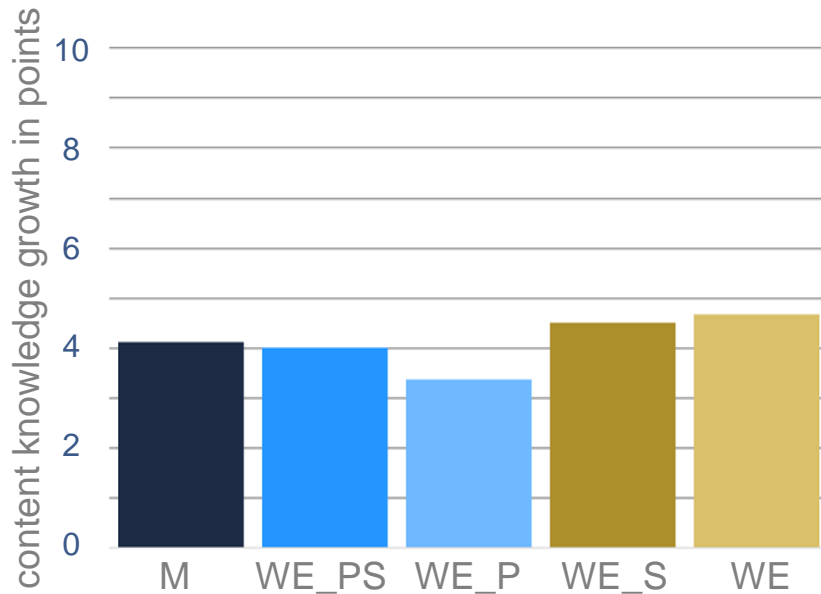
## Day 5 (post-test)

- learning outcomes

# Results



## Content Knowledge Growth



WE\_PS

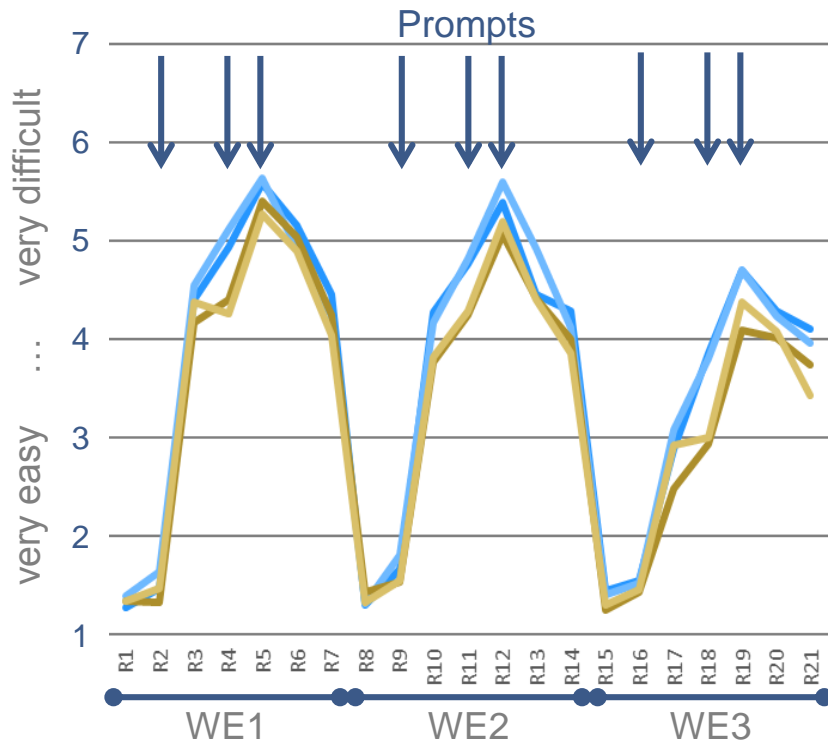
WE\_P

WE\_S

WE

- 33 Items, Multiple-Choice Single-Select
- $\alpha_{pre} = .403$ ,  $\alpha_{post} = .822$
- t-test pre-post (dependent)  
 $t(435) = 16.59$ ,  $p < .001$ ,  $d = 0.847$
- ANOVA & Post-Hoc (LSD)  
no differences between conditions

## Perceived Task Difficulty



WE\_PS

WE\_P

WE\_S

WE

- RM ANOVA & Post-Hoc (LSD)  
 $F(3,334) = 2.79, p = .040, \eta_p^2 = .024$

WE\_PS > WE\_S ( $p = .025$ ) and WE ( $p = .028$ )

Combining prompts and segmentation increases task difficulty compared to conditions without prompts

## 1<sup>st</sup> Research Question:

How do

- segmentation
- prompting

influence

- learning
- learning outcomes

from non-algorithmic worked examples?

- learning outcomes

significant growth of content knowledge  
no differences between conditions

- learning

prompting increases

- perceived task difficulty
- learning time

prompting and segmentation do not affect

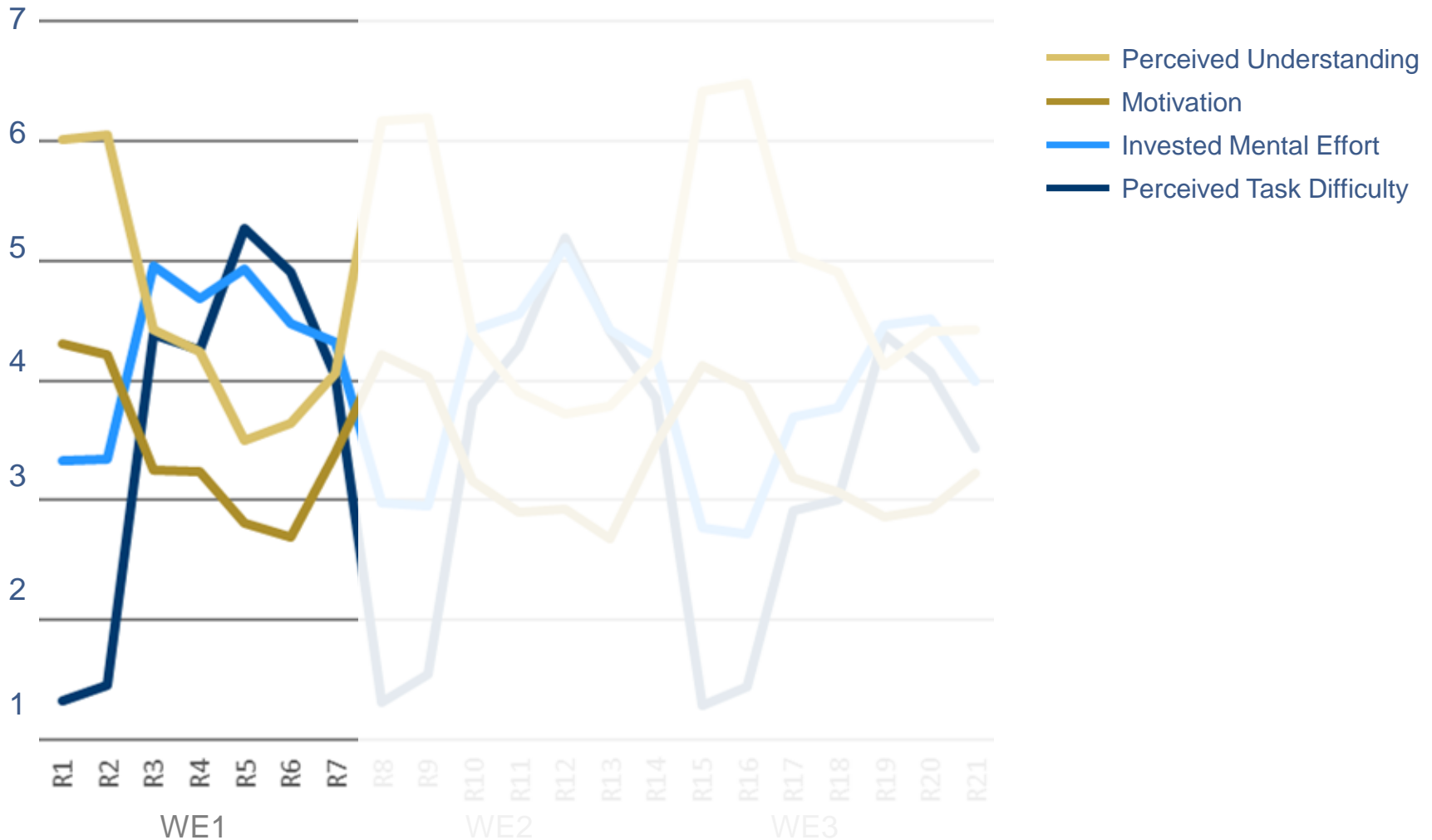
- invested mental effort
- motivation
- perceived understanding
- instructional efficiency (Paas & van Merriënboer, 1993; van Gog & Paas, 2008)

→ neither prompting nor segmentation improved learning



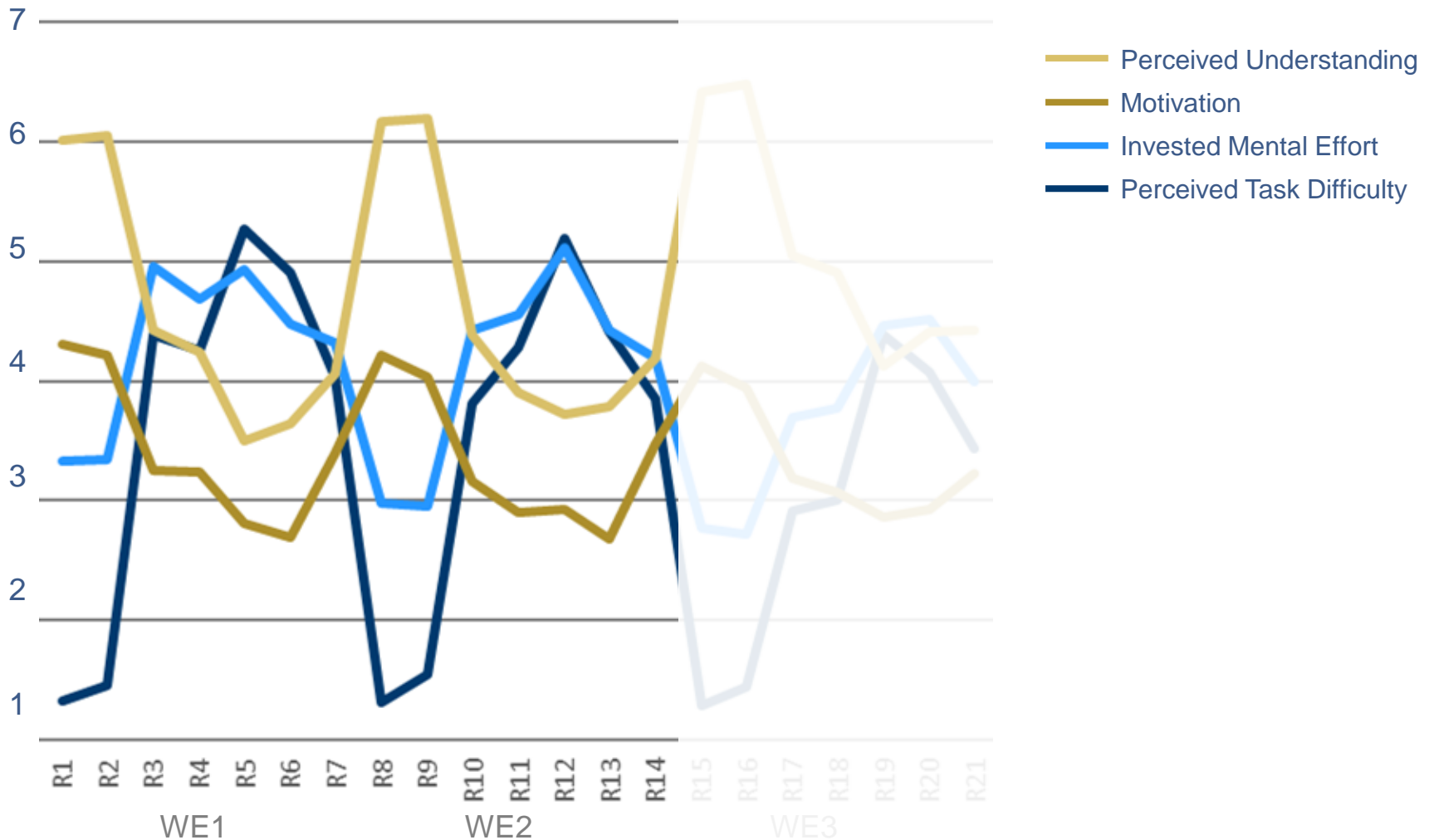
# Development of Multiple Cognitive and Affective Ratings

## Development of Multiple Ratings



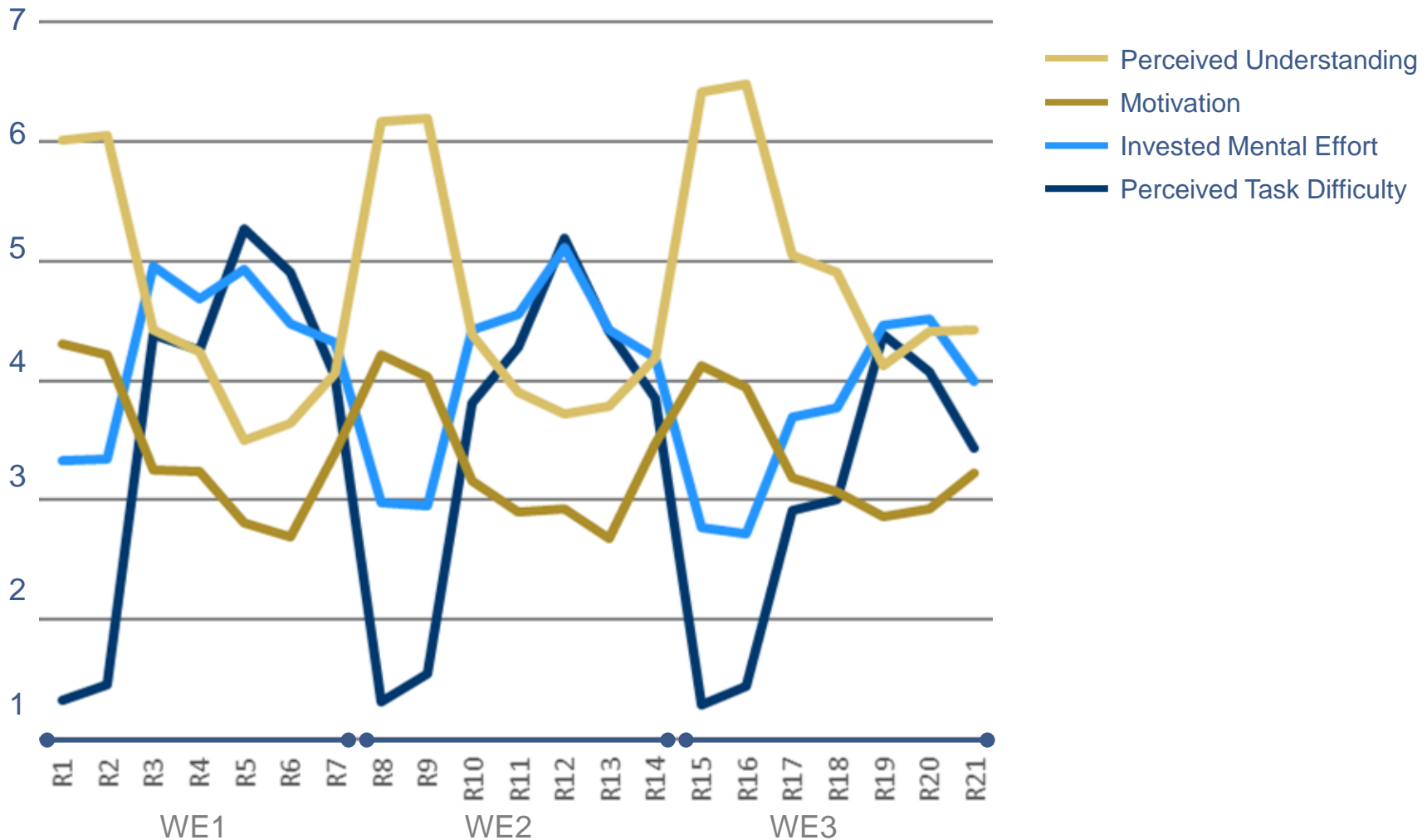
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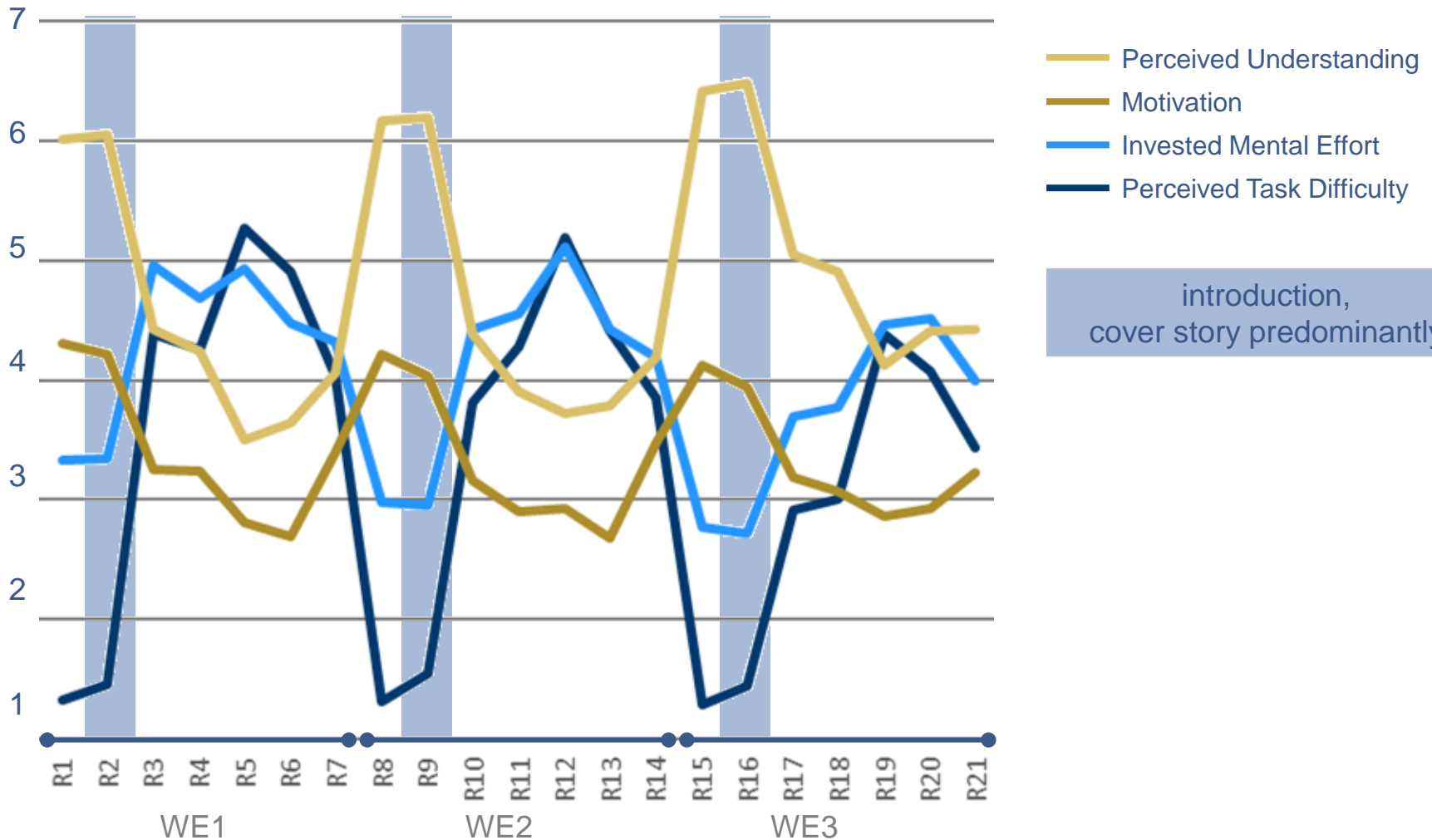
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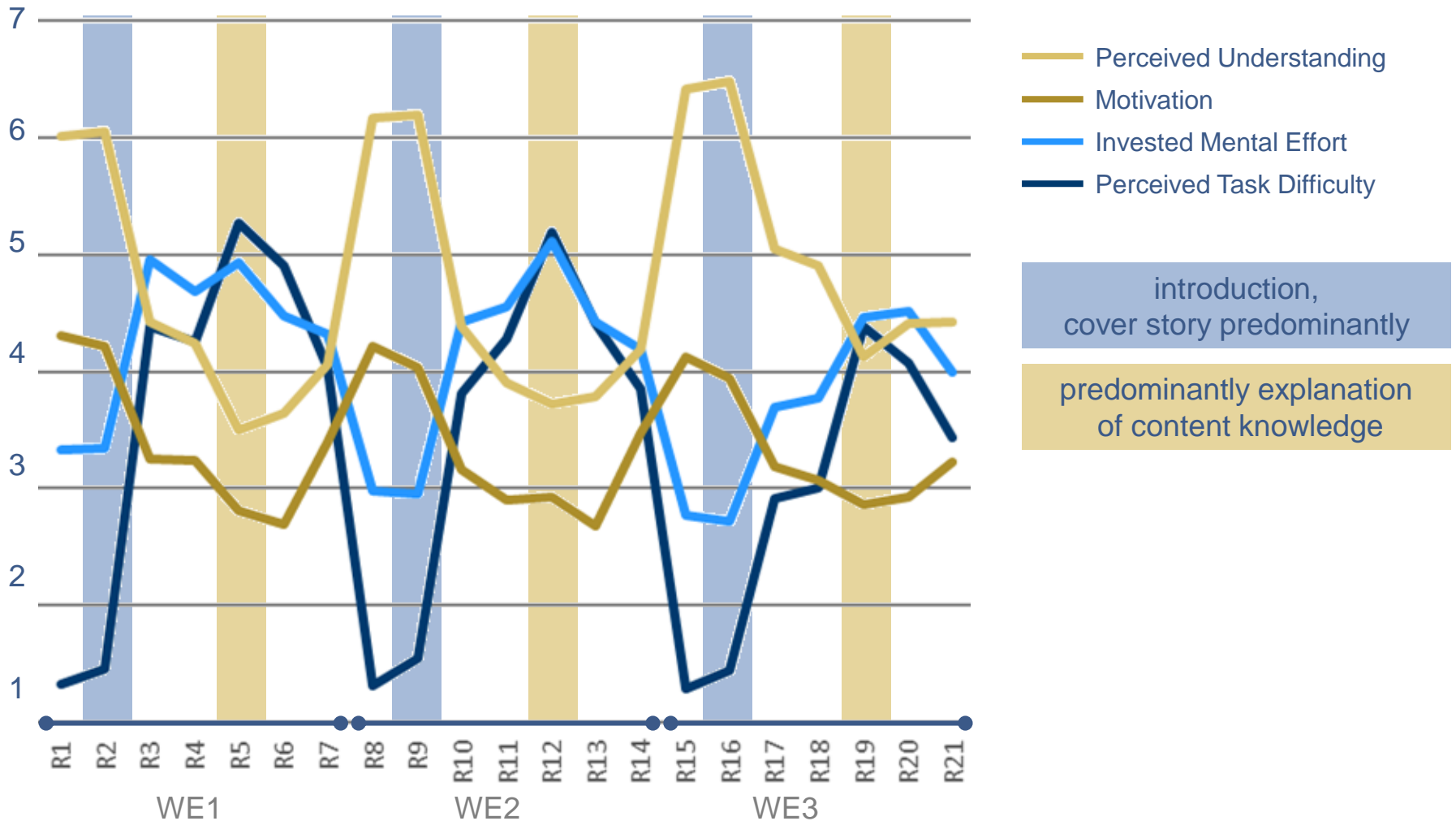
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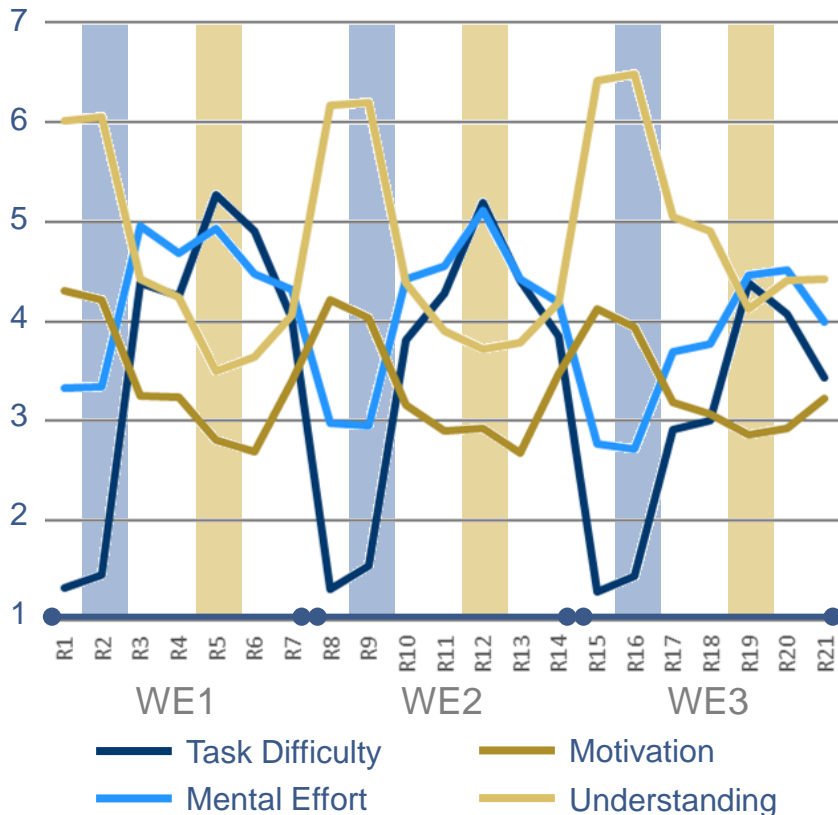
# Development of Multiple Cognitive and Affective Ratings

## Development of Multiple Ratings



# Development of Multiple Cognitive and Affective Ratings

## Development of Multiple Ratings



introduction, cover story predominantly

predominantly explanation of content knowledge

		learning outcomes
perceived task difficulty	$M_{R2}$	-.230**
	$M_{R5}$	-.336**
motivation	$M_{R2}$	.148**
	$M_{R5}$	.390**
perceived understanding	$M_{R2}$	.314**
	$M_{R5}$	.574**
invested mental effort	$M_{R2}$	-.181**
	$M_{R5}$	.108*

*N* = 338, \*\*  $p \leq 0.01$ , \*  $p \leq 0.05$ , Pearson-Correlation

## 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Research Question:

How do multiple subjective ratings on

- invested mental effort
- perceived task difficulty
- motivation
- understanding

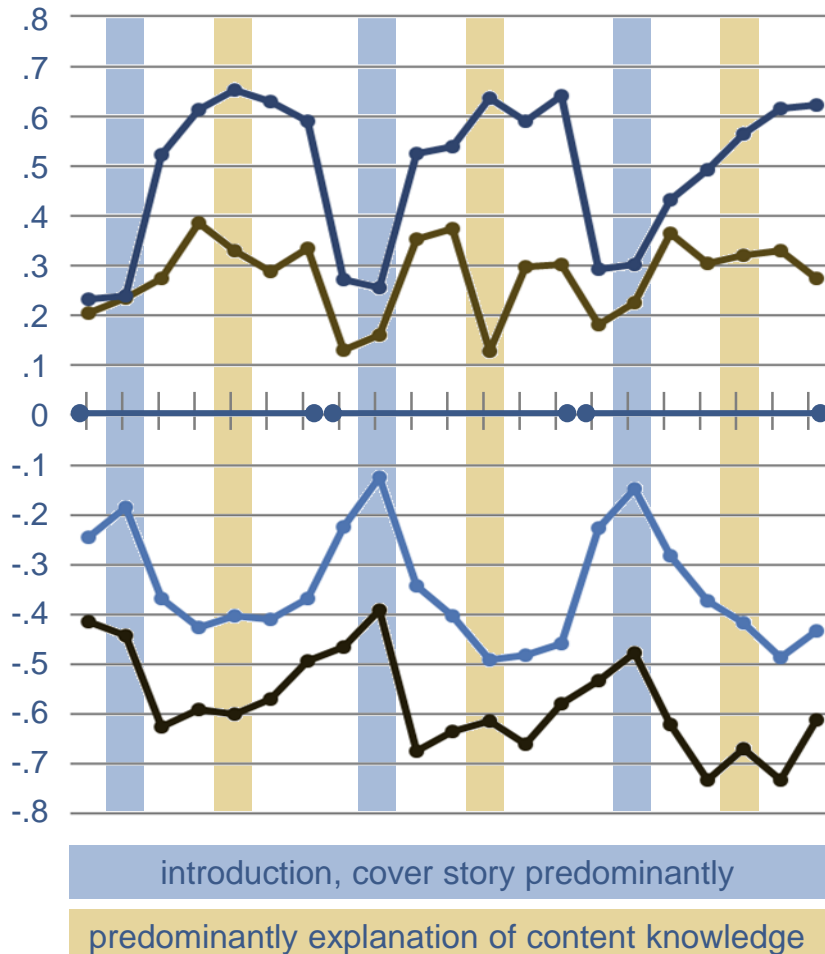
develop during studying one complex task?

relate to learning outcomes?

- differences between ratings (R2 and R5)
- contrary developments for cognitive load and affective ratings
- stronger relations to learning outcome for later ratings (R5) on task difficulty, motivation and understanding
- relation between mental effort and learning outcomes changes from negative (R2) to positive (R5)

# Development of the Relation of Cognitive and Affective Ratings

## Correlation of Multiple Ratings



$N = 338$ ,  $p \leq 0.05$ , Pearson-Correlation

Motivation & Understanding

positive relation

especially true when cognitive load is high

Task Difficulty & Mental Effort

Motivation & Task Difficulty

negative relation (Stebner et al., 2015)

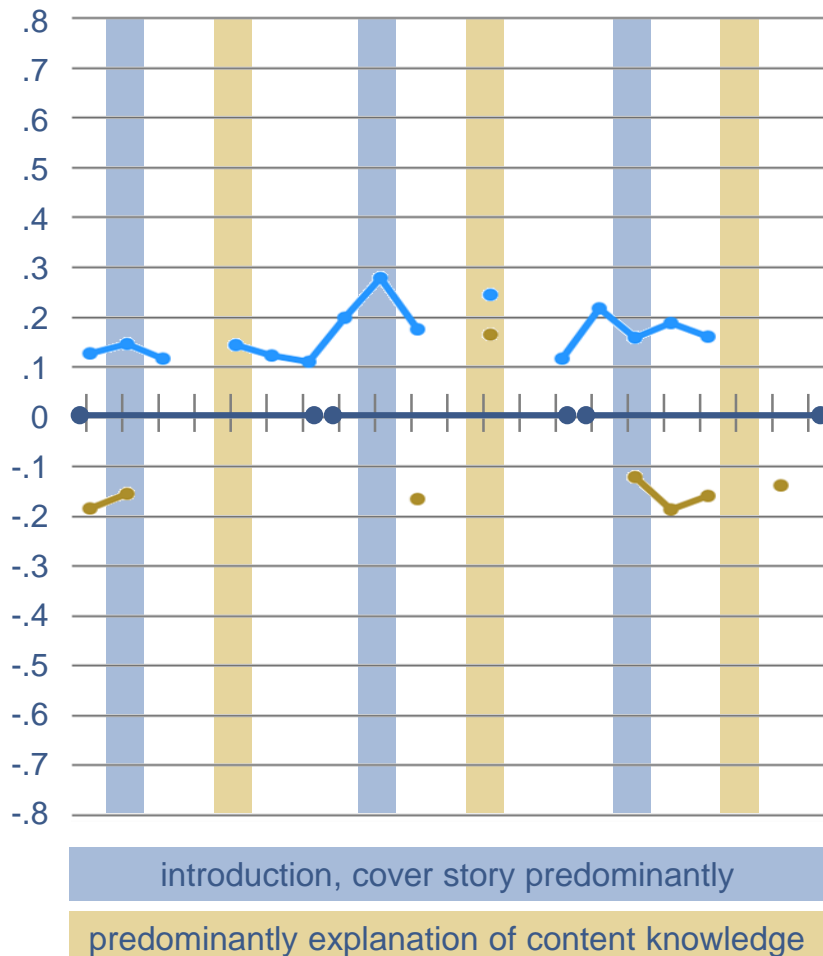
especially true when cognitive load is high

Task Difficulty & Understanding

especially true when cognitive load is high



## Correlation of Multiple Ratings



### Motivation & Mental Effort

positive relation (Stebner et al., 2015) but not consistent

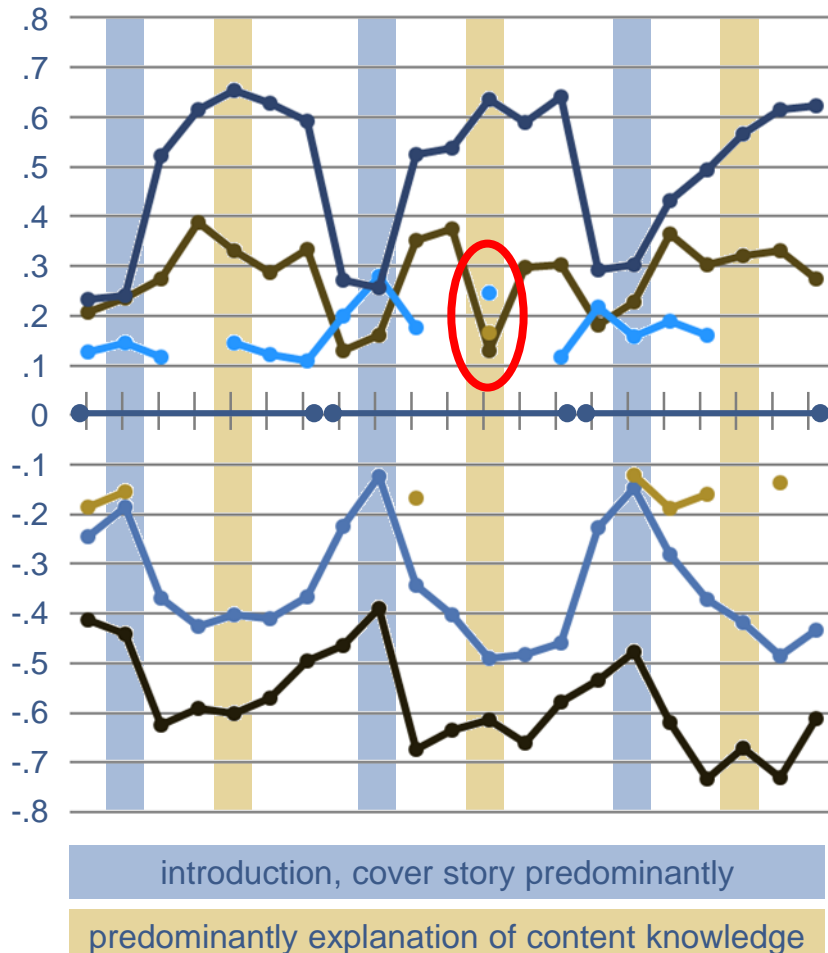
### Mental Effort & Understanding

no strong, consistent relation

$N = 338$ ,  $p \leq 0.05$ , Pearson-Correlation

# Development of the Relation of Cognitive and Affective Ratings

## Correlation of Multiple Ratings



- Motivation & Understanding**  
 positive relation  
 especially true when cognitive load is high
- Task Difficulty & Mental Effort**
- Motivation & Mental Effort**  
 positive relation (Stebner et al., 2015) but not consistent
- Mental Effort & Understanding**  
 no strong, consistent relation
- Motivation & Task Difficulty**  
 negative relation (Stebner et al., 2015)  
 especially true when cognitive load is high
- Task Difficulty & Understanding**  
 especially true when cognitive load is high

$N = 338$ ,  $p \leq 0.05$ , Pearson-Correlation

## 4<sup>th</sup> Research Question:

How does the relation between multiple subjective ratings on

- invested mental effort
- perceived task difficulty
- motivation
- understanding

vary during studying one complex task?

- consistent relation over 21 ratings between
  - motivation and understanding
  - task difficulty and mental effort
  - motivation and task difficulty
  - task difficulty and understanding
- no consistent relation over 21 ratings between
  - mental effort and motivation (15/21)
  - mental effort and understanding (8/21)
  - the significant relation is missing especially at points of high task difficulty
- one conspicuous point
  - mental effort and task difficulty decreases
  - mental effort and motivation increases
  - mental effort and understanding changes from negative to positive

- Neither Prompting nor Segmentation fostered learning
  - Prompts lead to an increase of cognitive load (overload?) and learning time (extraneous processing?)
  - Segmentation was self-paced, multiple-ratings provide segmentation for the no-segmenting conditions
- Classroom setting
- Design principles are mainly proved for algorithmic examples and interrelations of the design principles are only partly examined (Renkl, 2014)
- Multiple subjective ratings
  - Contrary developments for cognitive load and affective ratings within one complex task
  - Changing relation between mental effort and learning outcomes from negative (R2) to positive (R5)
  - No consistent relation between mental effort and motivation / understanding (at points of high task difficulty)

**Thank you,  
for your Attention!**

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