

Table 4. Cross-sectional study objectives, games, and results.

Studies, participants, playtime	Objectives	Games	Results
Gerling et al., ³³ N = 16 (time not stated)	Accessibility and usability of exergame	SilverBalance, Wii fit (slalom skiing and ski jump)	Measure: GEQ Results: fun to use Wii; group 2 (SilverFit) found board difficult to use and instructions too fast. Both groups +ve to SilverBalance
Gerling et al., ³⁷ N=27 (12 females, 15 males) (tutorial + 5 min)	Suitability of exergame for older adults and create set of gestures suitable for institutionalized older adults	Body gestures (arms and legs; growing a flower garden, catching birds)	Measure: PANAS, perceived suitability Results: Overall completion of gestures was 54.17%, gestures not recognized was 16.67%; study 1: suitability of gestures set (0–5): gesture was fun (3.40 ± 1.72), gesture was tiresome (1.87 + 1.41), gesture was easy (4.40 + 1.30), gesture was difficult (2.20 + 1.57); perceived suitability of gestures set for mini game: gesture was fun (3.08 + 1.62), tiresome (2.33 + 1.66), easy (3.83 + 1.03), difficult (2.75 + 1.29). Perceived suitability of game: gesture was fun (3.79 + 0.99), tiresome (2.13 + 1.57), easy (3.71 + 1.48), difficult (1.83 + 1.1)
Graf et al., ³⁸ N = 20 (14 females, 6 males) (time not stated)	Preferences of target group, and development of test game	Puzzles using gym band	Measure: qualitative evaluation of system, motivational factors Results: easy for use band and operate system; video image hard to see; purely auditory instruction insufficient, animated demos necessary. Eight motivation factors: competition, socializing, adventure, relaxing, expressiveness, fitness, body awareness, and sports
Hashimoto et al., ²⁵ N = 25 (6 females, 19 males) (time not stated)	Developing virtual reality for gait training	Virtual town; walk in virtual town through balance board	Measure: oral questions for usability (no details) Results: usability was measured to see how many traffic lights seniors ignore on higher difficulty level. Time per step between young and elders: level 1, elderly (0.475 ± 0.065), young (0.44 ± 0.07), p = 0.211, number of handle operations: level 3, elderly (13 ± 14.25), young (8 ± 4), p < 0.05, level 4, elderly (8.5 ± 14.25), young (5 ± 3), p < 0.05
Kang et al., ²³ N = 20 (9 females, 11 males) (time not stated)	Development of a sensory gate-ball game system for the aged people	Gateball	Measure: satisfaction survey Results: majority of participants reported overall satisfaction: normal (40%), satisfaction (55%), very satisfaction (5%)
Kim et al., ²⁹ N = 309 (239 females, 70 males) (7–10 min)	Development of a walking game for the elderly using controllers of hand buttons and foot boards	Walking, herding sheep	Measure: acceptability Acceptability: suitable length average: 7.6 min; preferred length 5 min (89.4%); want to play again: 89.4%; interest score: 4.13 out of 5; emotional refreshment: 36% very high; 48% high; lower body effects: 21% very high; 35% high; 33% normal; upper body effects: 10% very high, 35% high, 37% normal

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Table 4. (Continued)

Studies, participants, playtime	Objectives	Games	Results
Nawaz et al., ⁴ N = 14 (9 females, 5 males) (1 min + 1 song length)	Assessment of seniors' UX of exergames for balance training	DDR The Mole Your Shape	Measure: measures of TAM, SUS, qualitative feedback SilverFit SUS: 87.0 + 11.1 (SD); Your Shape SUS: 83.7 + 13.1 (SD); DDR SUS: 69.6 + 18.9 (SD) ANOVA, $p = 0.007$. Performance expectancy (+), effort expectancy (\pm), social influence (+), facilitating conditions (-), social experience (\pm), safety (+), setup (-), progress (+), localization
Silva et al., ²⁷ N = 10 (8 females, 2 males) (45 min)	Development and usability of balance game	Dance coach	Measure: observations, and qualitative feedback DDR is relevant for target audience; interface should be improved; emphasize on positive feedback, accommodate beginners
Theng et al., ³⁰ N = 28; (time not stated)	Exploring perception of Nintendo Wii	Not stated (mimic real life activities)	Measure: PU, PB, usefulness, ease of use, results: game realism significant effect on PU ($p = 0.004$). Relationship between PU and PB ($p = 0.001$) indicating opportunity to improve health. Positive and receptive throughout. Healthy workout option

ANOVA: analysis of variance; DDR: dance dance revolution; GEQ: game experience questionnaire; PU: perceived usability; PB: perceived benefits; PANAS: positive and negative affect schedule; SD: standard deviation; TAM: Technology Acceptance Model; SUS: System Usability Scale; UX: user experience.

Table 5. Longitudinal study objectives, games, and results.

Studies, participants, period	Study objectives	Games	Measure and results
Aarhus et al., ²⁴ N = 13 (3 males, 10 females) (24 weeks, 2x/week, 60 min)	Adoption of exergames in physical rehabilitation	Wii Sports and Wii Fit Plus; table tilt, ski jump, ski slalom, hula hoop, bowling	Measure: ethnographic observations and qualitative feedback on adoption Results: supplement but not replace OT; (+) socially engaging; (+) playing together; (+) competition; (-) speed and complexity; (-) absence of native language; (\pm) animated character in game as feedback of performance; (-) screen display of BMI
Billis et al., ²⁸ N = 14 (6 males, 8 females) (8 weeks, 5x/week, 60 min)	Platform usability and user acceptance	Not described	Measure: comparison of anticipated usability versus actual usability of platform Results: new FFA platform provided positive feelings (fun, joy, calm); easy to use; clear instructions; adapted to users' needs; perceived as beneficial. Affectiveness, mean (SD), 57.43 (5.64), $p < 0.00001$; Usability, mean (SD), 28.21 (3.29), $p < 0.00001$; satisfaction, mean (SD), 28.43 (3.72), $p < 0.00001$

Table 5. (Continued)

Studies, participants, period	Study objectives	Games	Measure and results
Celinder and Peoples, ³⁵ N=9 (6 males, 3 females) (3 weeks, 3×/week, 30 min)	Experience of stroke patients with exergames	Wii Sports; bowling, fishing	Measure: observations and semi-structure interviews about experience of exergame Results: (+) bring variety in daily routine; (+) breaking up the day; (+) new topic of conversation; (+) desiring meaningful occupations; (+) engagement; (+) gaining control and benefits; (+) excitement and motivation; (+) wishing to play again; (-) obstacles and challenges; (-) need of quicker reaction; (-) physical challenge; (-) cognitive challenge
Chan et al., ³⁶ N=30 (8 males, 22 females) (8 × 10 min)	Feasibility, acceptability, efficacy of exergames	Wii Fit	Measures: attitude of acceptability through time used, frequency of use, BS, FIM Results: time used (min): 71.9 ± 7.1; BS = 7.9 ± 2.3 (no excessive fatigue); appropriate frequency and duration = 87%; like to continue = 83%; happy after using = 90%; suitable for older adults = 97%; significantly high FIM than in historic controls (p=0.05)
Chao et al., ¹ N=7 (2 males, 5 females) (8 weeks, 2×/week, 30 min)	Acceptability; safety and efficacy on physical function and FOF	Wii Fit	Measure: BBS, TUG, SEE, 6MWT, FES, SEE, OEE Results: acceptability: enjoyable experience (71%), interest in exercising with Wii games; safety: participants with COPD experienced mild shortness of breath during exercise; efficacy: balance (BBS: -14; range: 0-56), p < 0.05
Chiang, ³⁴ N=23 (8 weeks, 3×/week, 60 min)	Acceptance of exergames in war-veterans	Yoga: warrior position and balance: table tilt	Measure: observations and semi-structure interviews about experience of exergame Results: six themes: immediate feedback; competition; companionship; challenges; close to grandchild; fun Difficulties: complex to use; need staff help and commitment Viable to use to encourage participation
Graves et al., ³¹ N=13 (10 males, 3 females) (2 × 70 min)	Psychological cost and enjoyment; comparison: Wii, handheld gaming, and treadmill	Wii Tetris, yoga and muscle conditioning, brisk walking, and jogging	Measure: PACES Results: Wii Fit enjoyed more than inactive (p=0.003) except for yoga. Wii balance and aerobics enjoyed more than treadmill. Energy expenditure and heart rate higher for treadmill than Wii. Wii balance most enjoyed activity
Jorgensen et al., ³⁹ N=28 (10 weeks, 2×/week, 40 min)	Explore motivational effect of Wii	Wii: table tilt; slalom ski; perfect 10; tight rope tension; penguin slide; standing rowing squat	Measure: RFD, TUG, FES, 30s chair, motivation at weeks 5 and 10 Results (between Wii and control group): RFD, p < 0.05; TUG, p < 0.05, FES, p < 0.05; 30-s chair stand, p < 0.05. High motivation at weeks 5 and 10 (significance not tested)

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Table 5. (Continued)

Studies, participants, period	Study objectives	Games	Measure and results
Uzor and Baillie, ³² N=8 (6 females, 2 males) (12 weeks, 5×/week, 38 sessions, time not mentioned)	Measure effects of exergame on adherence, balance, walking, and user experience and acceptance of exergames	Pigeon Express, river gem, panda peak, horse hurdle, virtual physiotherapist	Measure: SUS, FOF, TUG, walking speed Results: SUS=89.6 of exergame; progress in FOR in exergames group, $p=0.097$
Wüest et al., ²⁶ N=16 (12 weeks, 36 sessions, 20 min)	Measure usability and effect on balance and gait	Scarecrow, tractor driver, fruit catcher, worm hurdler, mix soup	Measure: acceptance through measures of TAM Perceived ease of use 5.9 ± 1.7 (1–7), perceived usefulness, 6.4 ± 1.0 (4–7); attitude toward using 6.5 ± 1.1 (2–7), behavioral intention to use 6.0 ± 1.3 (3–7)

6MWT: 6-min walk test; BBS: Berg Balance Scale; BMI: body mass index; BS: Borg Scale; COPD: chronic obstructive pulmonary disease; FFA: fit for all; FES: Falls Efficacy Scale; FIM: Functional Independence Measures; FOF: Fear of Falling; OEE: Outcome Expectations for Exercise Scale; OT: occupational therapy; PACES: Physical Activity Enjoyment Scale; RFD: rate force development; SEE: Self-Efficacy for Exercise Scale; SD: standard deviation; SUS: System Usability Scale; TAM: Technology Acceptance Model; TUG: time up and go.

outcome showed that exergame group had significantly high FIM than in historic controls ($p=0.05$). Jorgensen et al.³⁹ reported that after playing exergames for 10 weeks, there was positive effect on time up and go (TUG) <0.05 . Jorgensen et al.³⁹ also reported that there was high motivation to play exergame at weeks 5 and 10; however, significance was not tested.

In longitudinal studies, there was no single way to measure the acceptability and usability of exergames. Two studies^{26,32} used questionnaire of TAM, whereas one study used a questionnaire of attitude toward Wii games.³⁶ One study used exergame experience questionnaire that involved questions related to acceptability.¹ Two of the studies did not use a questionnaire; instead, these studies relied on ethnographical observations and qualitative users' feedback.^{24,34} Billis et al.²⁸ measured usability and satisfaction of the game through Physical Activity Enjoyment Scale (PACES).

Generally, the effect on physical function was measured through a test of balance, the BBS,^{1,26} the BS measuring self-reported intensity.³⁶ Wüest et al.²⁶ measured effect through BBS, short physical performance battery (SPPB), and Gait analysis. Besides the exergame effect on physical function, studies also used other measure to calculate the effect of exergames. For example, Graves et al.³¹ measured effect of exergame through energy expenditure. Jorgensen et al.³⁹ measured the effect of exergames through prolonged motivation to play exergames in home and senior centers. Uzor et al.³² measured effectiveness exergame by combining physical function and adherence, functional walking speed, and fear of falling.

Most of the longitudinal studies^{1,24,31,34–36,39} (7 of 10) used Wii platform for their studies. From these longitudinal studies, half of the studies used off-the-shelf Wii exergames and used it in the studies, whereas one study specially designed game with wireless inertial sensors which are connected to laptop computer.³² Two studies used fit for all (FFA) and force platform, respectively.^{26,28}

Concerning the amount of playtime in longitudinal studies, users played exergames on average 26.62 sessions (SD: ± 6.10), for 36.11 min (SD: ± 19.96 min), except the study by Chan et al.,³⁶ which conducted 8 sessions for 10 min, and Graves et al.,³¹ which conducted only 2 sessions for 10 min.

Positive aspects of exergames. We enlist usability issues on the basis of qualitative feedback that is reported in different studies:

- *Immediate feedback.* The game should provide immediate feedback to older adults. Feedback should be provided in the form of scores, audio as well as visual form.^{24,34}
- *Competition.* The exergames should provide competition among the players. The competition environment can be created through comparison of scores and comparison of attendance of participants if exergames is used in intervention program.^{24,31,34}
- *Social interaction.* The exergames should provide opportunity of social interaction. The social interaction helps to exchange tips of getting higher score or better movements.^{4,24,31}
- *Challenge.* The exergames should provide challenge. Challenge helps older adults feel satisfaction when passing stages.³⁴
- *Close to grandchild.* Game narrative should have common topics to share with grandchildren.³⁴
- *Play together.* Exergame should encourage older adults to play together in groups.²⁴
- *Body awareness.* Exergame should provide older adults with body awareness.³⁸
- *Emphasis on positive feedback.* Exergames should emphasize on positive feedback.²⁷

Critical aspects of exergames. From critical perspective, studies reported that users do not like the following aspects in exergames:

- *Avoid speed and complexity.* Exergames should avoid speed and complexity at the same time.^{24,34}
- *Avoid showing personal data on screen.* Creating a personal profile in the exergames shows personal data such as body mass index (BMI) and the center of gravity by conducting balance tests. Such form of personal data should be avoided in multi-player settings.²⁴
- *Absence of native language.* Absence of native language can demotivate older adults because interactional experience of older adults goes down.²⁴
- *Facilitating conditions.* Exergames require physical space to be used. Exergames should clearly state how much space is required to setup and play game.⁴
- *Setup support.* Inadequate setup support demotivates older adults to use exergames in home setting; therefore, exergames should provide help and assistance to setup exergames.^{4,34}

There are some aspects of exergames which are identified as positive and critical at the same time. For example, an animated character in game can be used as feedback of performance for the older adults.²⁴ On the other hand, the character can also distract during the exercise tasks. In these cases, users' preferences can be utilized to enable or disable type of a feedback.

Discussion

This scoping review aimed to provide an overview of aspects of usability and acceptability of exergames and to explore how different aspects of exergames evaluation have been measured and what were the results of the studies. We reviewed 19 studies of exergames for older adults that

assess usability and acceptability on exergames. The studies were mainly published between 2009 and 2014 which shows that usability evaluation and acceptability of exergames among older adults are relatively new field of research.

Use of theories and methods in studies of exergame usability

The full-text review revealed that exergame studies did not use lots of theories for conducting studies of exergame usability. The use of theories in usability becomes handy because theories provides with a handle to conduct studies. These handles are the components of the theory that are further investigated to understand the users' perspective on a particular phenomenon. While looking into the results, it becomes clear that studies used mainly TAM.^{4,26,30} While using TAM provides quantitative measures to conduct usability assessment, it does not look in depth concerning the emotional design⁴⁰ for visceral, behavioral, and reflective aspects of design when looking into the usability. Looking into the emotional design within exergame usability can provide users' experiential understanding of exergame usability.

The use of method reveals that mixed method approach was used by number of studies to conduct usability of exergames.^{4,24–26,28–30,33,36,37} It was interesting to find that five of the studies^{25,26,28,33,37} considered usability as their main method for studies. However, usability is a process that includes a number of evaluation methods such as prototyping, heuristic evaluation, and task analysis. To ensure what usability evaluation method studies have followed, the future studies need to specify usability inspection method instead of generalizing usability as a method for conducting exergames evaluation.

Evaluated aspects of usability and acceptability

The reviews show that studies have used variety in terms of their focus for usability and acceptability of exergames among older adults, and studies used their own interpretation toward usability and acceptability of exergames. In terms of evaluated aspects of usability, the longitudinal studies focused on usability and acceptability aspect and combined it with effectiveness of exergames on physical function. Acceptability as a general aspect of usability was outlined well by the studies, and the studies used TAM to evaluate acceptability. The effectiveness of exergames was measured through known measures such as BS, BBS, and FIM.

Cross-sectional studies have used commonly used approaches for measuring usability such ease of use, interactional experience, and satisfaction (Table 6). However, the interactional experience in the usability of exergame did not have unified understanding between the studies. For example, Gerling et al.³³ refer to interactional experience as general game experience, whereas Kang et al.²³ focus on interactional experience in terms of the color, menu, and typography experience of games. The evaluated aspects of usability should use a similar approach of the evaluation. For example, in case of feasibility of the study, two studies focused on fun³⁶ and enjoyment¹ while one study²⁷ used observations to know whether game is feasible for user. In terms of exergame satisfaction, exergame studies should clarify what studies mean by satisfaction. For example, one study²⁸ asked users to rate gameplay satisfaction (1–50), while another study²³ assessed game design satisfaction on a scale from very likely to very unlikely.

Outcomes of the usability and acceptability

The studies of exergames usability found that exergames usability and acceptability among the older adults were perceived well. The longitudinal studies also assessed the effect of exergames.

Table 6. Evaluated aspects of cross-sectional studies.

	Acceptability	Efficiency	Effectiveness	Satisfaction	Suitability	Engagement	Challenges	Feasibility	Safety	Interaction	Enjoyment	Usability	Benefits	Usefulness	Ease of Use
<i>Cross-sectional studies</i>															
Gerling et al. ³³					x					x					
Gerling et al. ³⁷					x					x					
Graf et al. ³⁸										x					
Hashimoto et al. ²⁵						x				x					
Kang et al. ²³				x						x					
Kim et al. ²⁹	x		x							x					
Nawaz et al. ⁴	x									x					
Silva et al. ²⁷								x							
Theng et al. ³⁰	x													x	x
<i>Longitudinal studies</i>															
Aarhus et al. ²⁴	x				x										
Bills et al. ²⁸				x											
Celinder and Peoples ³⁵						x									
Chan et al. ³⁶	x		x					x							
Chao et al. ¹	x		x										x		
Chiang ³⁴	x														
Graves et al. ³¹			x					x							
Jorgensen et al. ³⁹			x								x				
Uzor and Baillie ³²	x		x									x			
Wuest et al. ²⁶	x		x									x		x	x

Studies generally reported positive effect of exergames in terms of TUG and FIM. The usability in terms of SUS was reported good when value varied between 87 and 89 on 0–100 scale. It was interesting to know that usability in terms of SUS was considered moderate usable when SUS was 69.⁴ While comparing the outcome of usability in terms of SUS, games interface generally has better score in comparison with other interfaces such as interface of mobile phones and websites which vary between 66 and 69.⁴¹ Some of the studies reported the outcome of the usability in terms of positive aspects of exergames usability and the negative or concerning issues in terms of exergames usability. It will be interesting to look further in each of the aspects and see how it varies between users' groups with different priorities. These priorities may include balance training, cognitive training, or upper body training or full-body training.

In terms of acceptability of exergames, most of the studies were conducted in assistive living labs, rehab center, welfare center, or usability lab. Only two studies^{32,34} were conducted in residential homes. Participants of the studies in assistive and facilitative environment found the exergames acceptable. It will be interesting to research how users' perception about acceptability of exergames changes when these games are played independently in home or assistive living of older adults without supervised environment. Similarly, the outcome of interactional experience and satisfaction most of the studies reported that older adults enjoyed exergames experience. Testing exergames independently in unsupervised setting will help in generalizing the result of exergames usability.

Use of gaming platforms, games, and exercises

There was a clear indication that choice gaming platform varied between longitudinal and cross-sectional studies. Longitudinal studies mainly relied on Wii platform and used off-the-shelf exergames for their studies, whereas cross-sectional studies used a variety of platforms and did not rely on a single platform. One of the reasons that Wii platform is used in longitudinal studies is because studies wanted to measure the effect of exercise, and acceptability of developed exergames is measured during or after the study, whereas cross-sectional studies which used PC platform tried to involve users in the development phase of the exergames. The future studies should involve older adults in the start of the development process, and after the game has been developed, it should be used for a longitudinal study to measure the effect of the exercise. Concerning the use of gaming platforms, balance games require users to stand on a balance board.^{25,28} However, Xbox technology uses three-dimensional (3D) camera and it does not require balance board or pressure sensitive mat for games inputs.

In terms of exercises, most of the studies conducted balance exercises. Most of the balance exercises used table tilt balance game and Ski Salomon. Regarding game usage within the context of usability, it might be a good idea to use a variety of games to see which one is more usable. However, in terms of the effectiveness of exergames, use of many games may not indicate which games were more effective.

Conclusion

This review presents pragmatic evidence regarding the focus of game usability for full-body movement among older adults. This study concludes that there is single approach that is followed to assess usability of exergames among older adults. The studies that used SUS have reported results using the scale of SUS. However, the use of TAM varied in studies. Some studies reported the significance for the constructs of the TAM, whereas other used the constructs of TAM for qualitative themes.

Use established usability questionnaire and mixed methods

Most of the studies evaluated usability through mixed method approach by combining observation and interview with usability questionnaires. Generally, studies had their own understanding of what usability meant in this study. In addition to the general constructs of usability (usefulness, usability, ease of use, acceptability, and satisfaction), studies used constructs such as engagement, benefits, safety, challenge, and enjoyment to evaluate the usability of exergames. The future studies need to follow established usability evaluation procedures to quantify the results through questionnaire and provide insights through qualitative feedback.

Involvement of older adults in development of exergames for longitudinal studies

There was inconsistency concerning development and/or evaluation of the gaming systems. Those games that were developed as part of the studies generally used PC platform, whereas Wii platform was mainly used for evaluation and not many games were developed and evaluated in Wii. It further provides a detailed narrative on the usability aspects of exergames for older adults. The future studies should involve elderly adults in the start of the development process, and after the game has been developed, the game should be used for a longitudinal study to measure the effect of the exercise. The scientific examination of exergames through the lens of HCI and movement sciences provides a relevant and important platform for research.

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