Full tutorial for creating a 3d machine simulation with Virtual Universe Pro: Unstacker

Courtesy of School VAUVENARGUES (Aix en Provence, France)

Thanks

IRAI thanks Vauvenargues School for the use of Solidworks files used for this tutorial.

Prerequisites

Virtual Universe Pro 2.013 is required for this tutorial. Next versions are also compatible.

The last Virtual Universe Pro release can be downloaded at www.irai.com/vup

Symbols

The following symbols are used in the screenshots:

Left mouse click : 

Double click : 

Left mouse click: 

Drag and drop: 

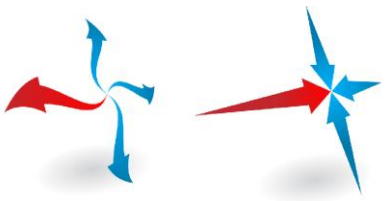
Entering text: 

Select from a list: 

Introduction

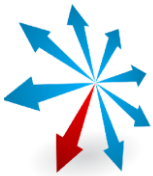
The realization of this simulation illustrates the resolution of certain difficulties, including the use of free concave parts (pallets), hybrid mechanical system cylinder (translation) / fingers (rotation). We deliberately kept some non-optimized in CAD tool elements (not aligned with the axes elements incomplete structure) to show that this can be treated in Virtual Universe Pro.

Reminder on navigation in the 3D world



Mouse wheel = zoom

Mouse wheel pressed + moving mouse or rotating wheel = translation



Left mouse button click = actions

Right mouse button pressed + moving mouse = rotation

Left mouse button click and drag = grab object

Files

The files used in this tutorial are available from our web site.

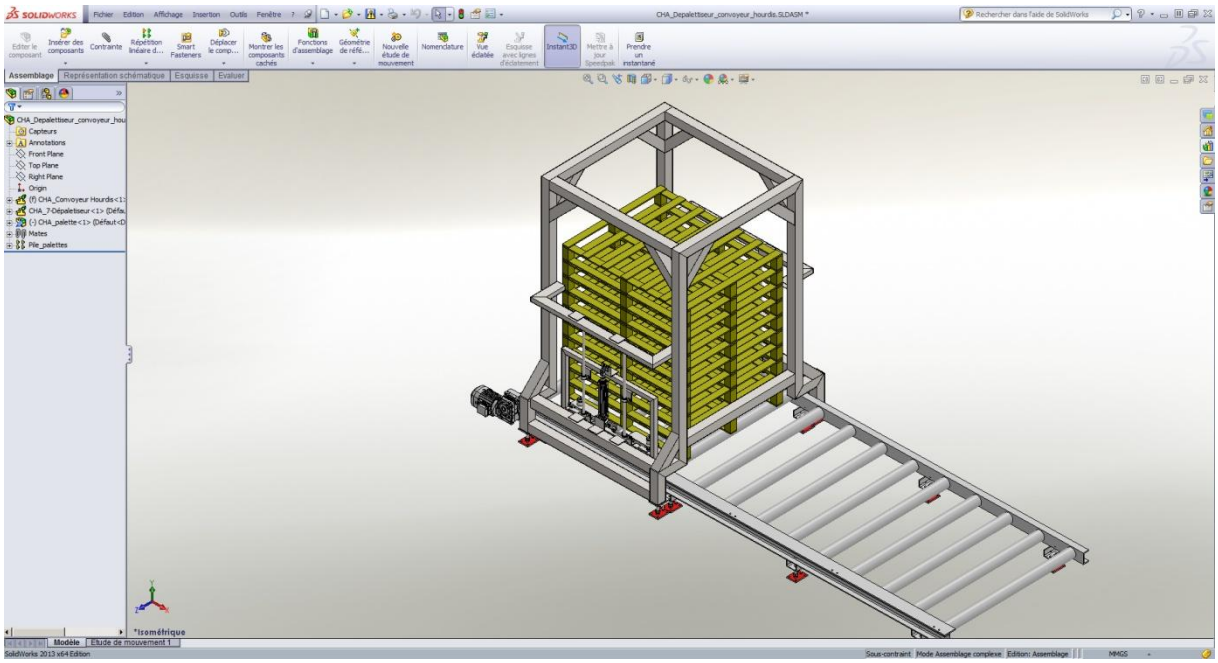
Les fichiers utilisés dans ce tutorial sont disponibles au téléchargement sur notre site Internet. The project being created has been saved in different stages identified by an index number in the file.

In this manual, the various save points are identified by a tracking # with <n> <n> = index, eg #3 refers to file unstacker#3.vu

Tutorial

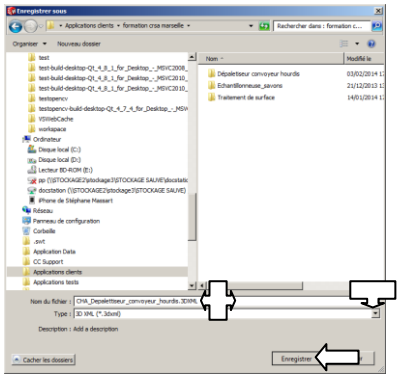
1- Conversion of the Solidworks assembly to 3dxml format

1.1 - Opening of the complete assembly of the machine from SolidWorks



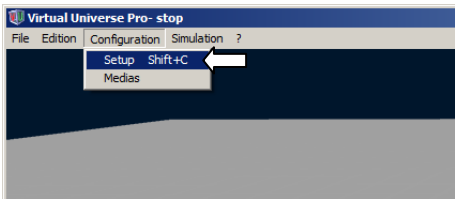
1.2- Export

1.3- Selecting the destination file

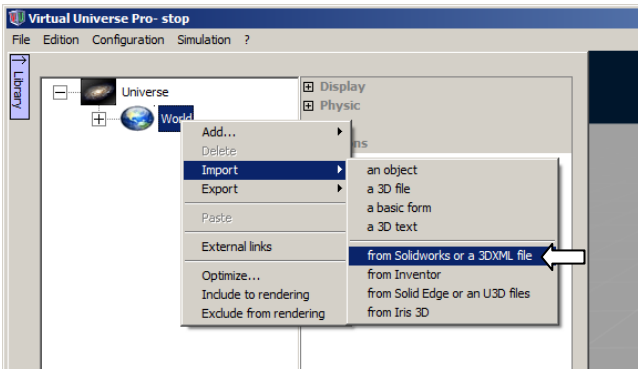


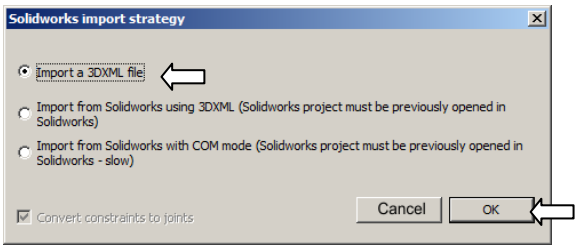
2- Import into Virtual Universe Pro

2.1- Opening the setup window

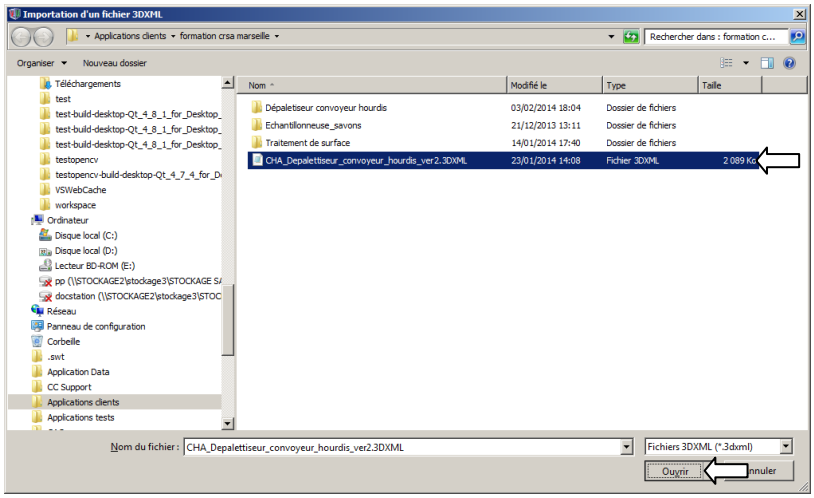


2.2 - Selecting the type of import

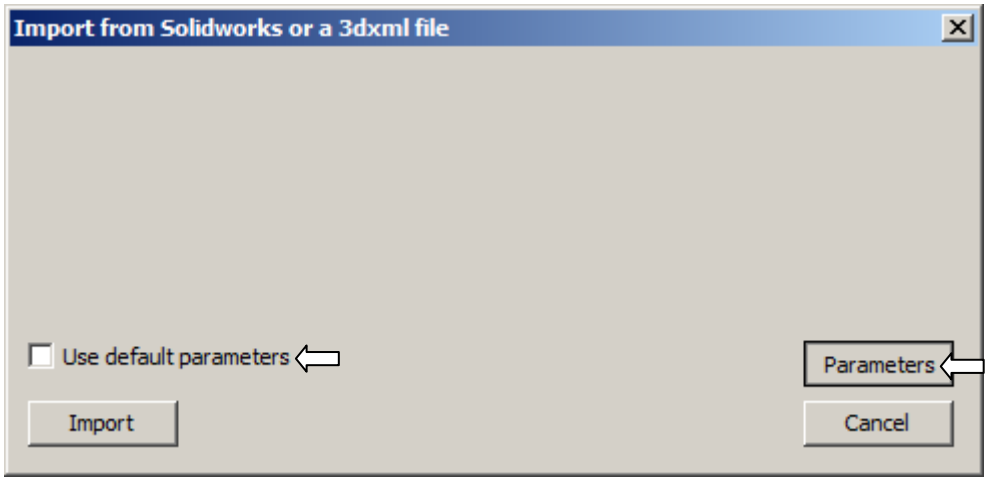


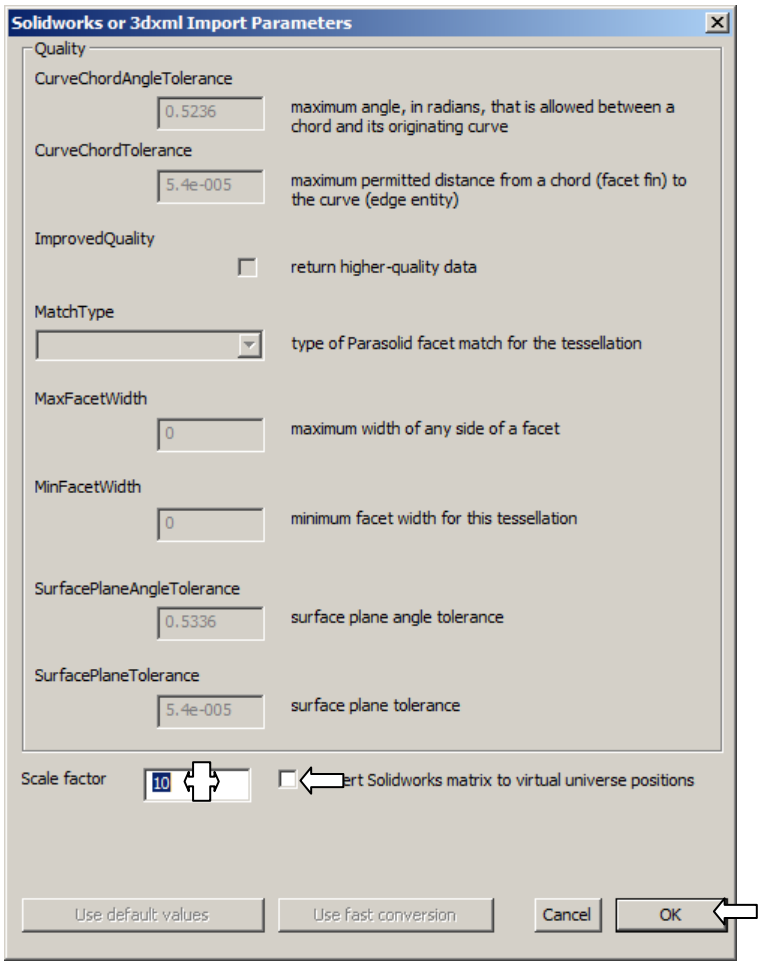


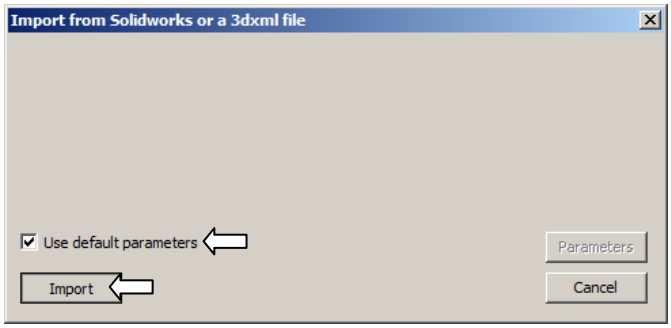
2.3- Select file to import



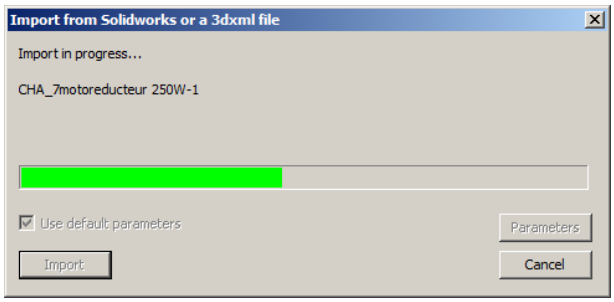
2.4- Defining the parameters of the import





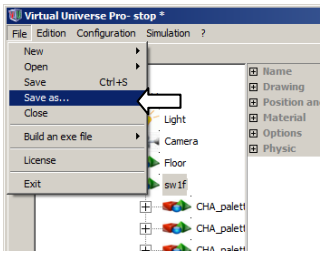


2.5- Automatic processing import

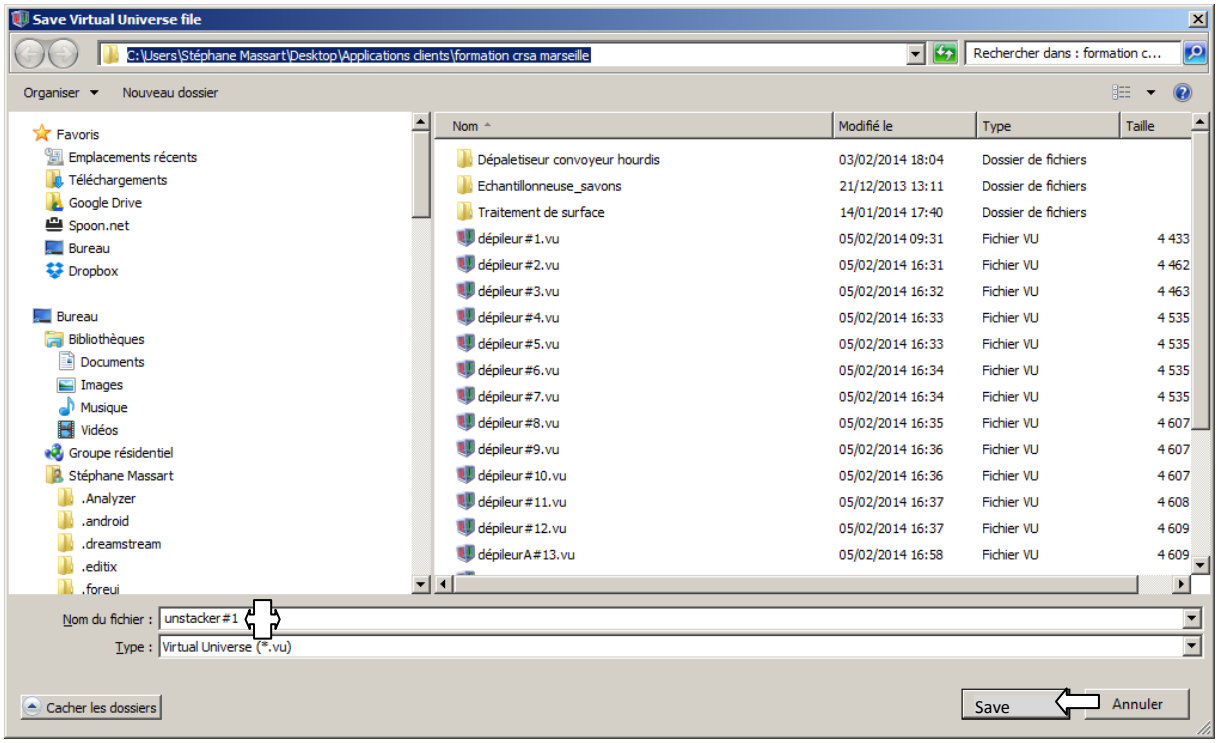


3- Saving the Virtual Universe Pro project

3.1- Saving



3.2- Setting of the file name



Tip: including # 1, the index (the number behind #) is automatically incremented for each backup allowing easy back to a previous version if mishandled. Remember to save regularly in the creation phase of a project.

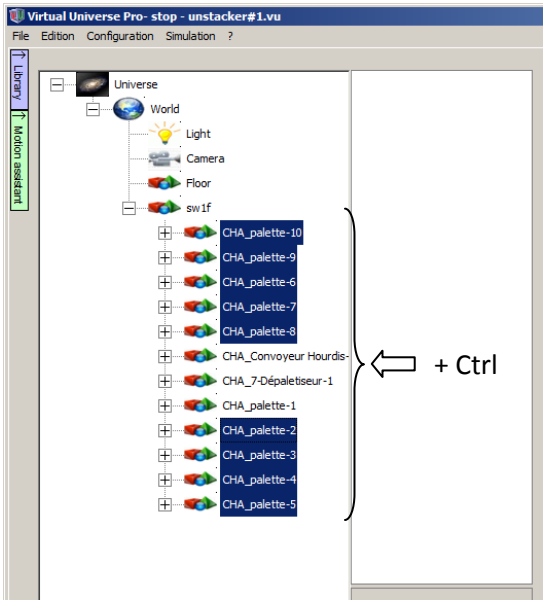
#1

4- Model creation

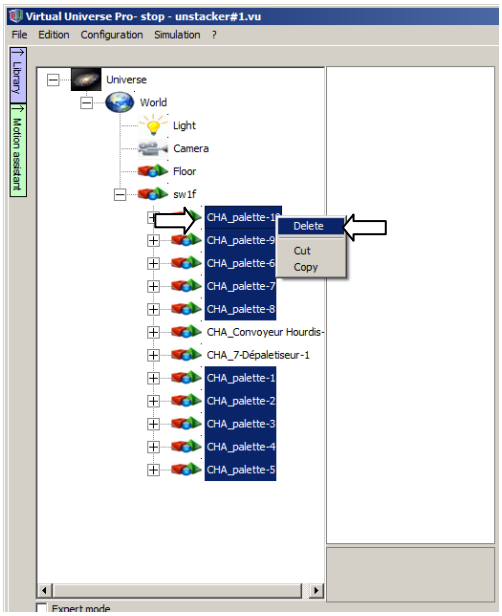
4.1- Setting the "free" items: pallets

4.1.1- Removing objects palettes (to keep only one)

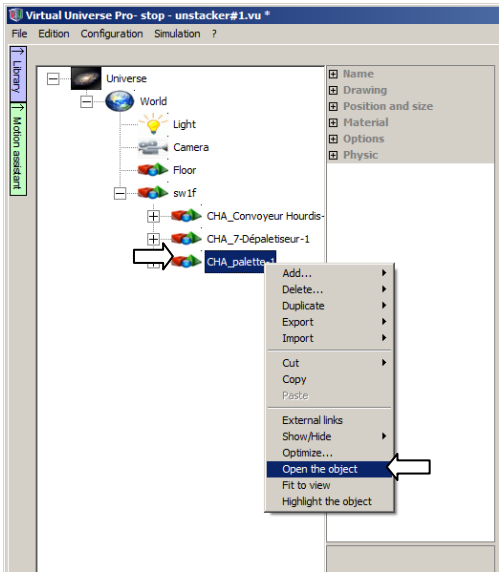
4.1.1.1- Selecting objects to be removed



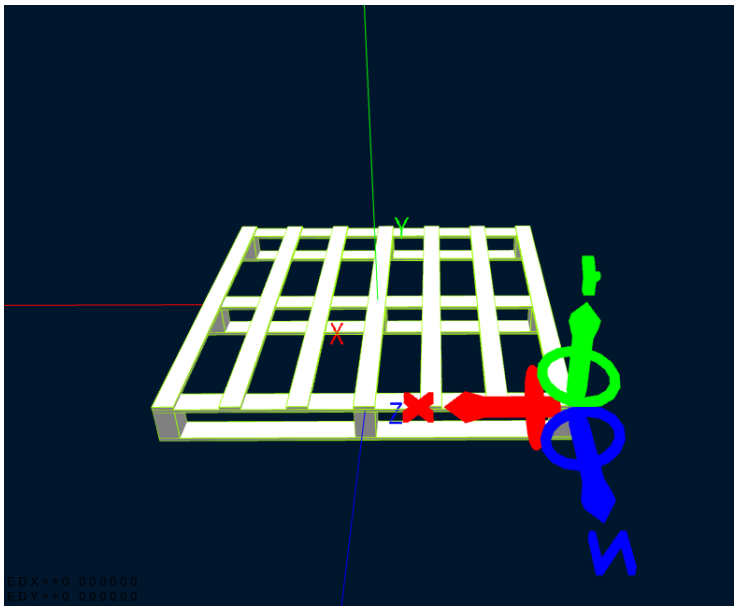
4.1.1.2- Deleting



4.1.2- Isolate the object



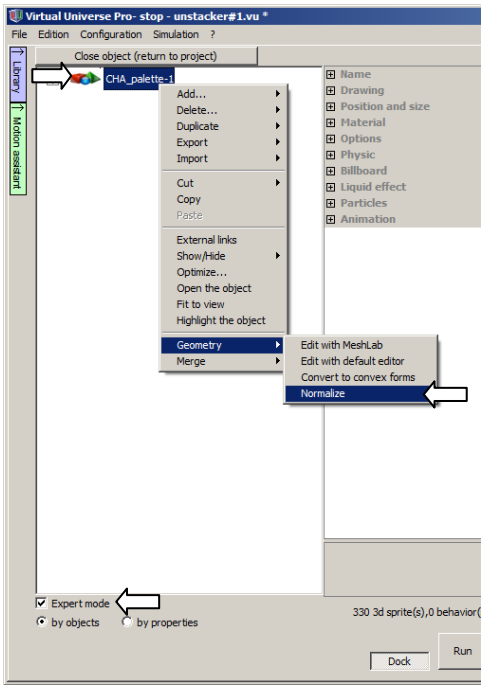
4.1.3- Center the pallet on the reference



In grabbing red, green and blue arrows, visually center the pallet on the origin of the reference (marked X / Y / Z thin lines).

4.1.4- Normalize the geometry

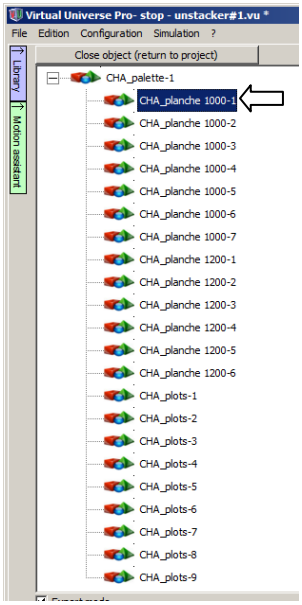
(required for the physics engine for compounds of several sub-items items)

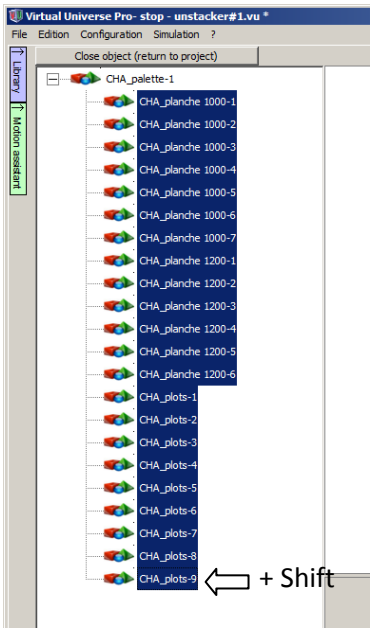


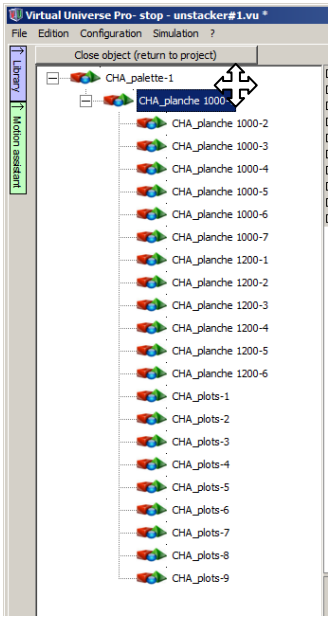
4.1.5- Merge elements of the palette

The purpose is to obtain a complex object composed of a plurality of convex forms usable by the physical engine. Pallets must in fact be crossed by fingers to be raised.

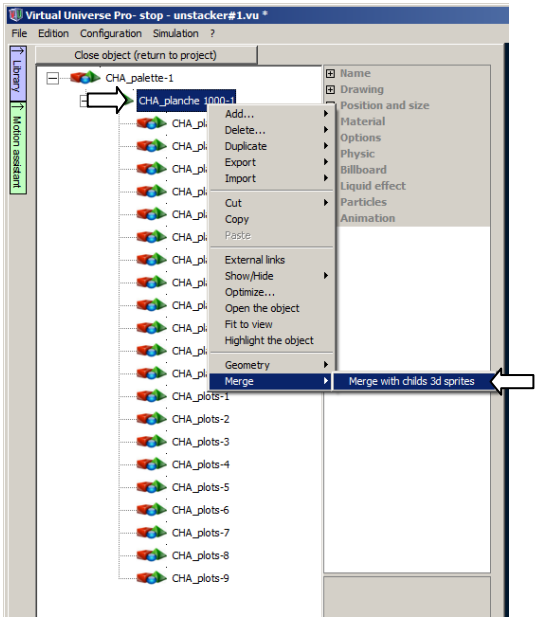
4.1.5.1- Making palette items child of the first item



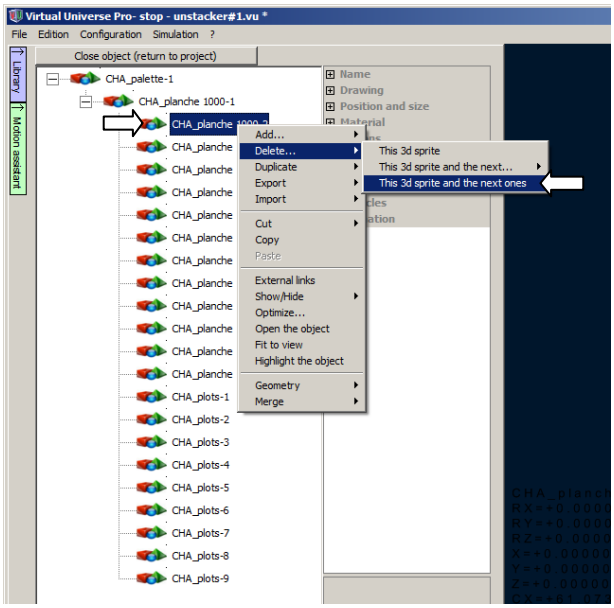




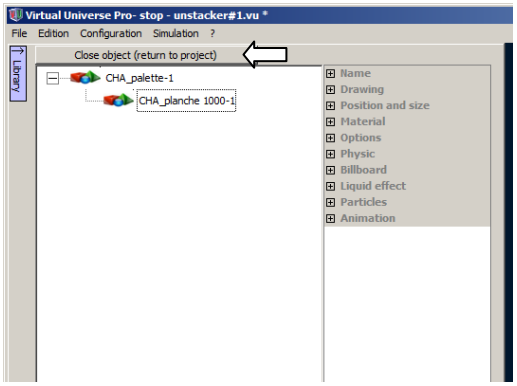
4.1.5.2- Merge objects



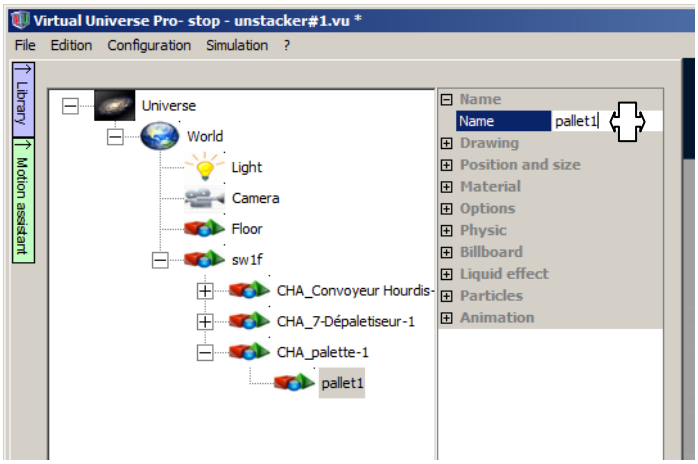
4.1.5.3- Delete child objects



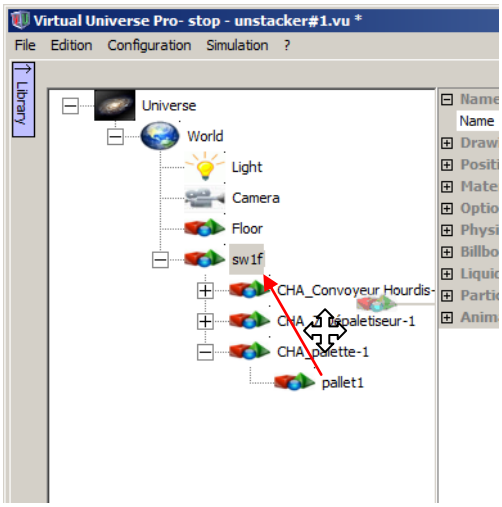
4.1.5.4- Close the object



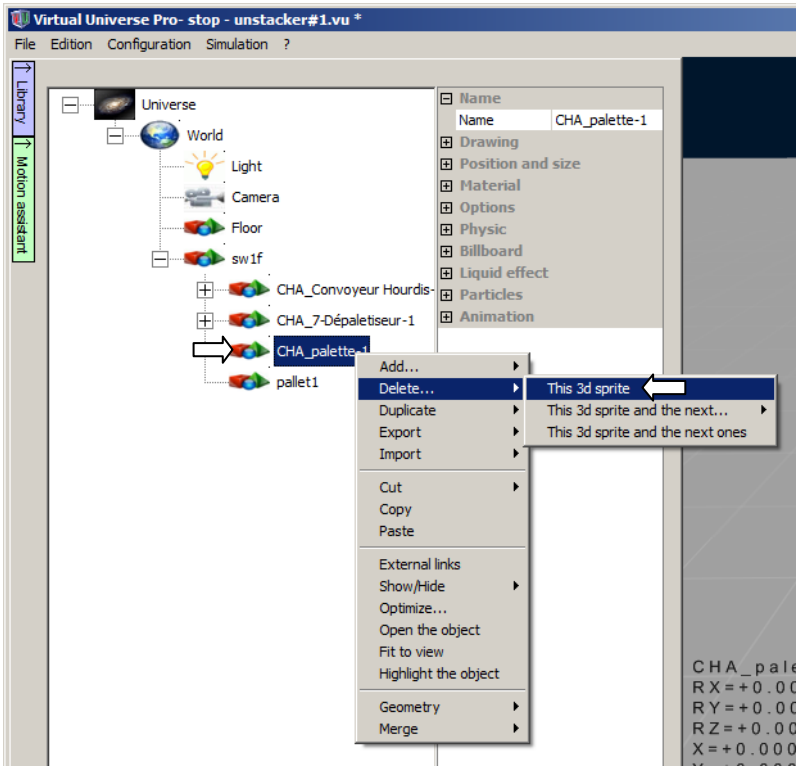
4.1.5.5- Rename the object



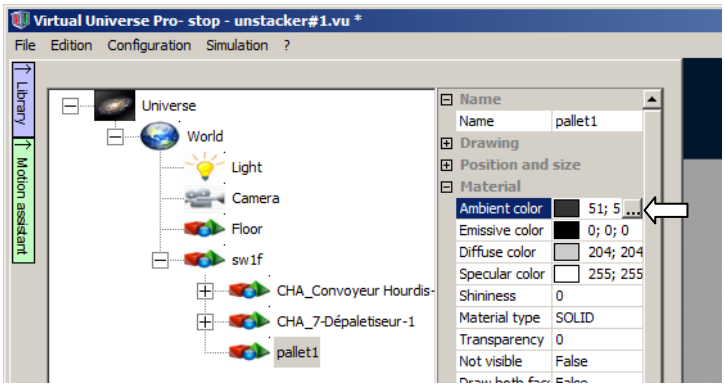
4.1.5.5- Make the pallet child of sw1f

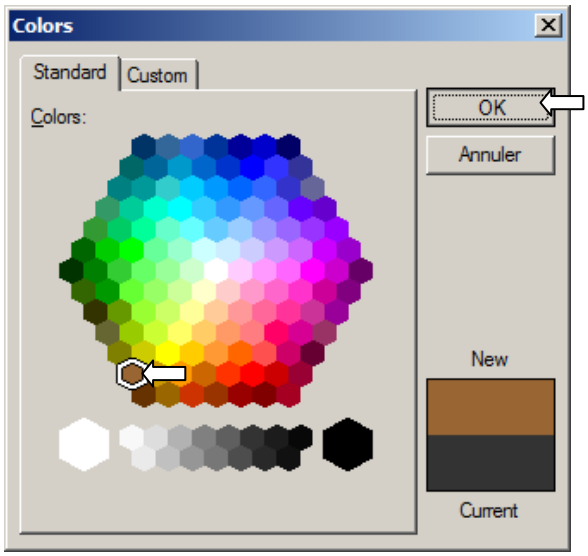


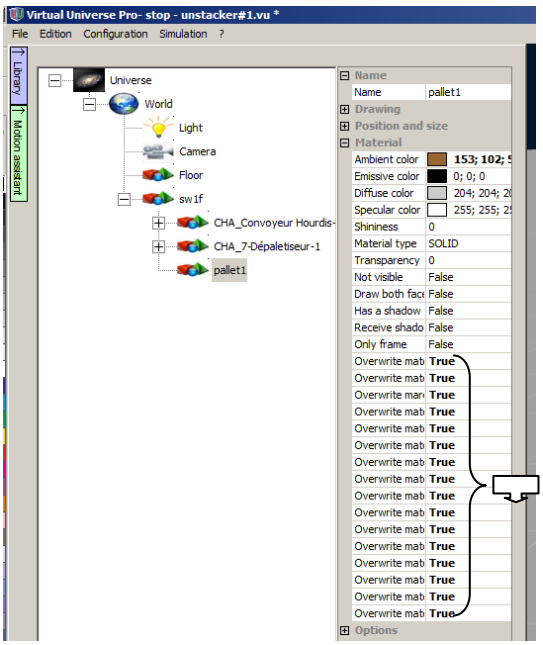
4.1.5.6- Delete old parent



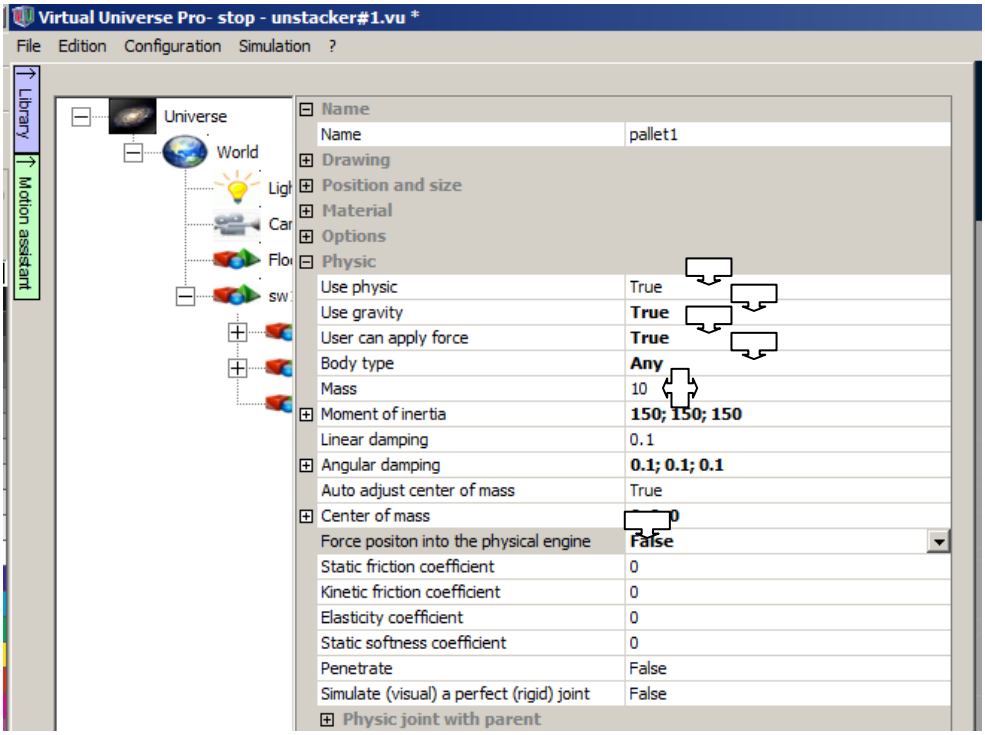
4.1.5.7- Set color



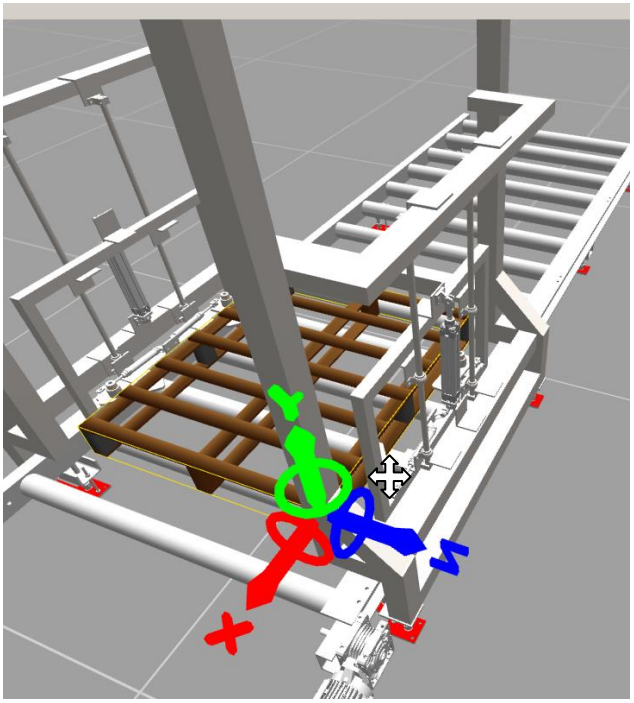




4.1.5.8- Define the physical properties



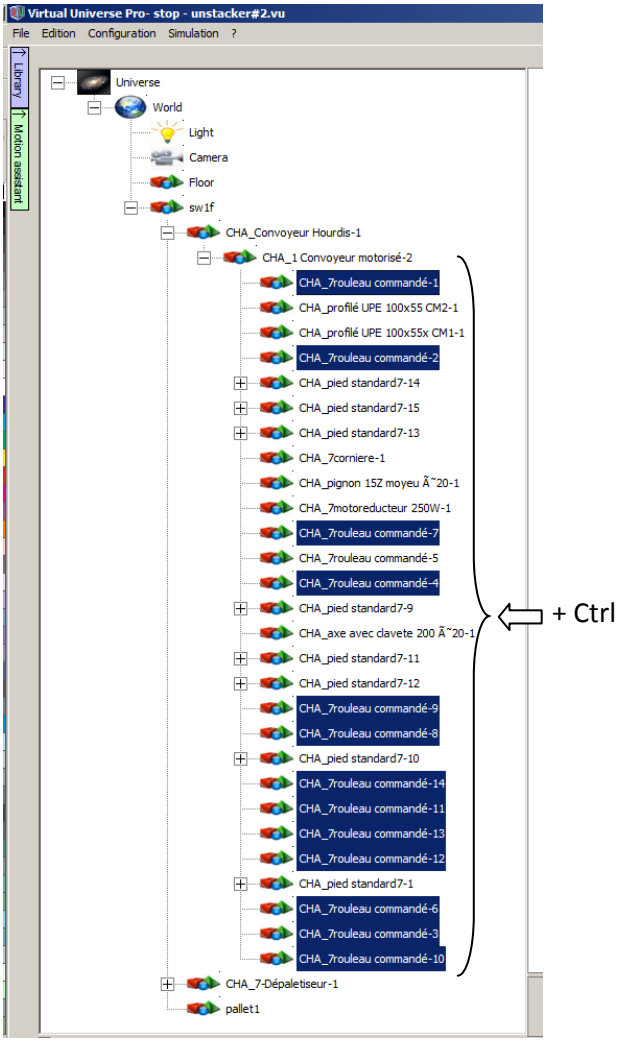
4.1.5.9- Back the pallet location

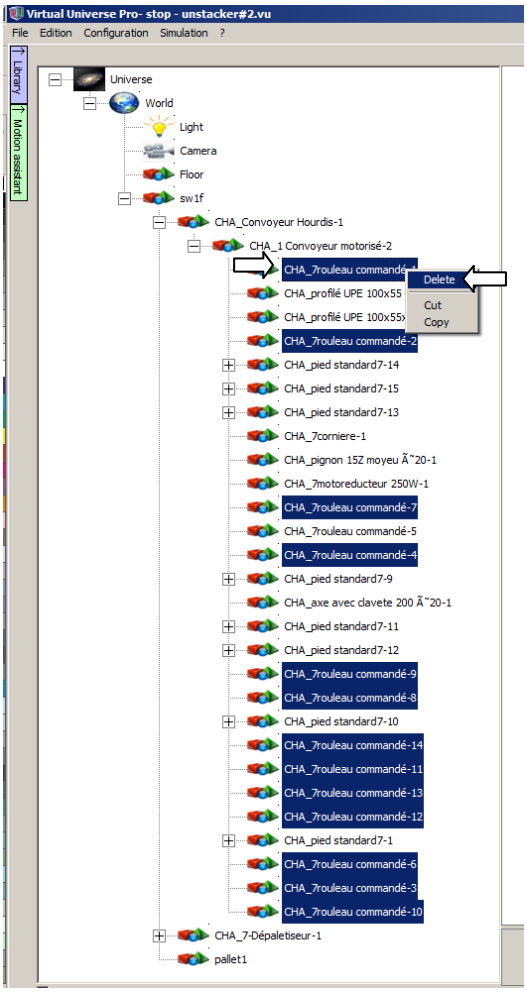


#2

4.2- Setting conveyor rollers

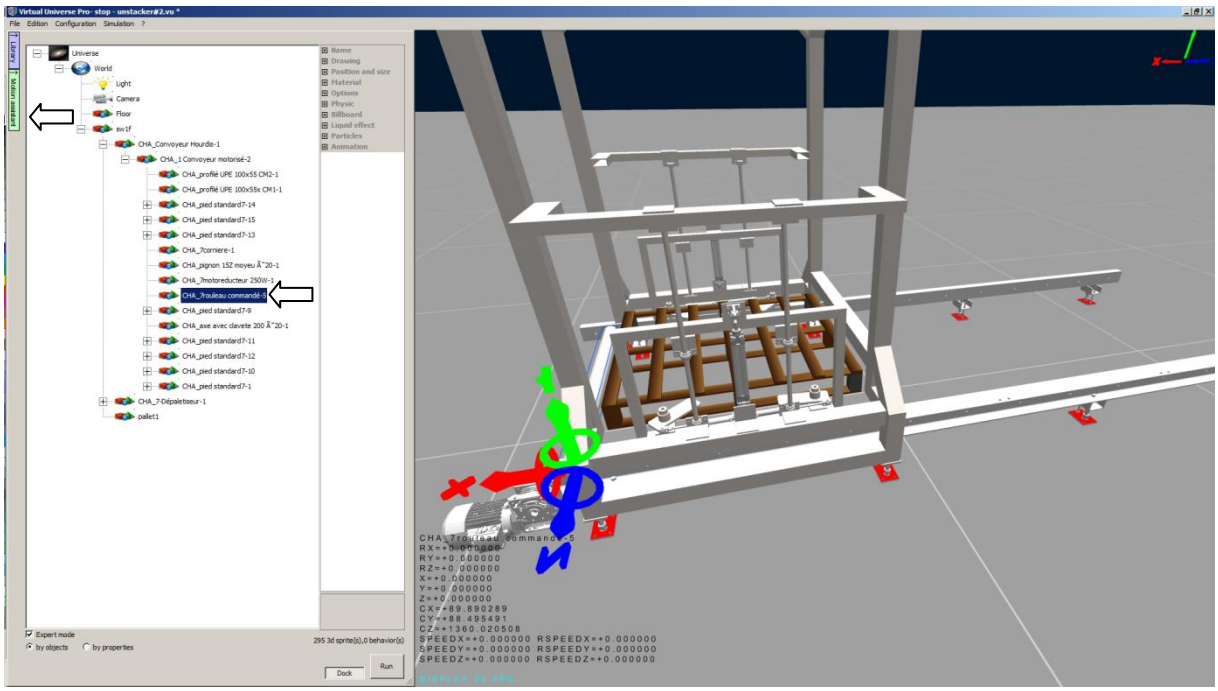
4.2.1- Remove all rollers except one



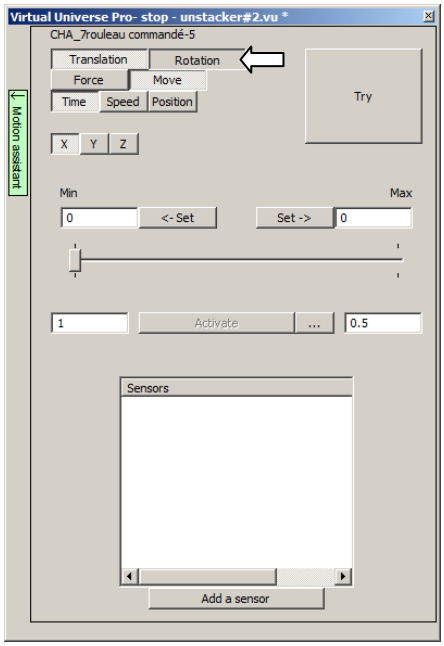

Virtual Universe Pro- stop - unstacker#2.vu
File Edition Configuration Simulation ?
Library
Motion assistant
Universe
World
Light
Camera
Floor
sw1f
CHA_Convoyeur Hourdis-1
CHA_1 Convoyeur motorisé-2
CHA_7rouleau commandé
CHA_profilé UPE 100x55
CHA_profilé UPE 100x55
CHA_7rouleau commandé-2
CHA_pied standard7-14
CHA_pied standard7-15
CHA_pied standard7-13
CHA_7corniere-1
CHA_pignon 15Z moyeu Ã˜20-1
CHA_7motoreducteur 250W-1
CHA_7rouleau commandé-7
CHA_7rouleau commandé-5
CHA_7rouleau commandé-4
CHA_pied standard7-9
CHA_axe avec clavete 200 Ã˜20-1
CHA_pied standard7-11
CHA_pied standard7-12
CHA_7rouleau commandé-9
CHA_7rouleau commandé-8
CHA_pied standard7-10
CHA_7rouleau commandé-14
CHA_7rouleau commandé-11
CHA_7rouleau commandé-13
CHA_7rouleau commandé-12
CHA_pied standard7-1
CHA_7rouleau commandé-6
CHA_7rouleau commandé-3
CHA_7rouleau commandé-10
CHA_7-Dépaletiseur-1
pallet1
Delete
Cut
Copy

4.2.2- Setting the remaining roller

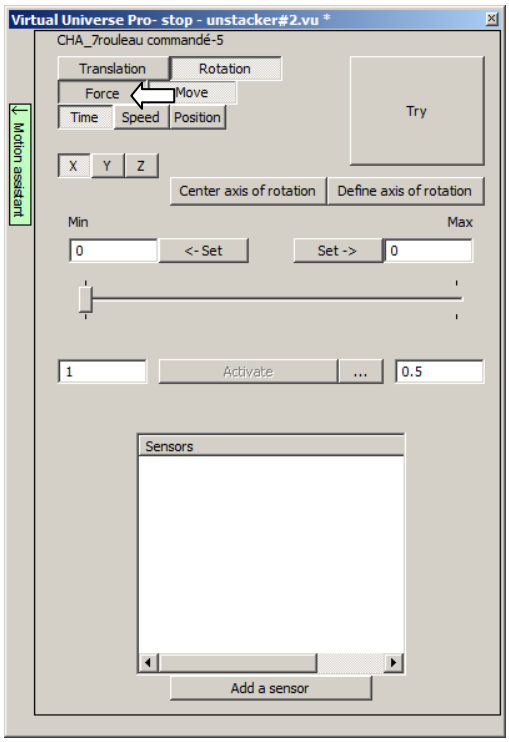
4.2.2.1- Opening the assistant



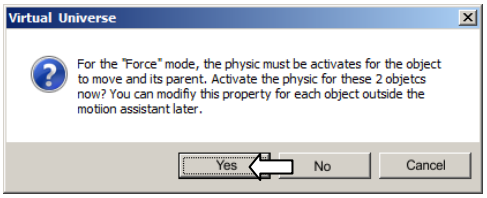
4.2.2.2- Selection of "rotation" mode



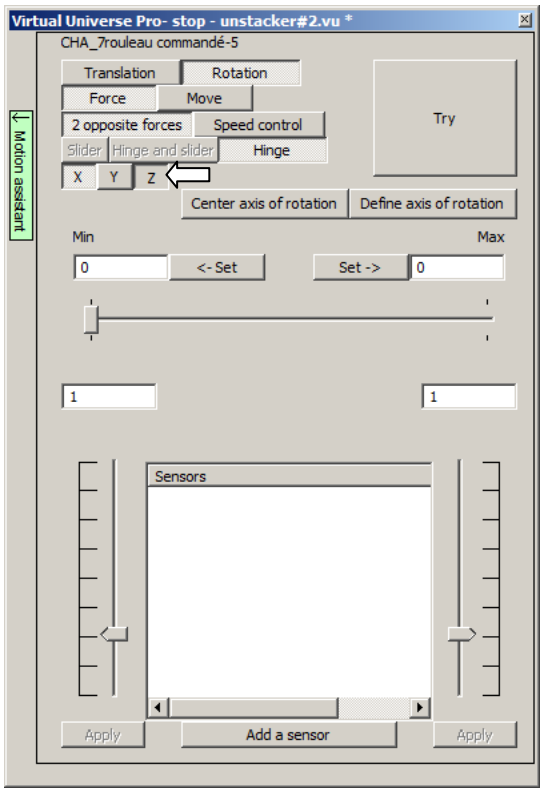
4.2.2.3- Selection of "force" mode



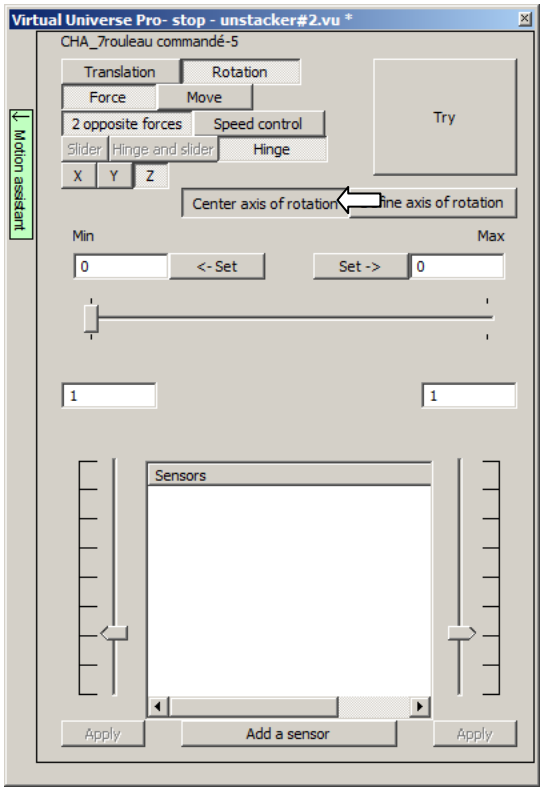
4.2.2.4- Accept the change for object attributes

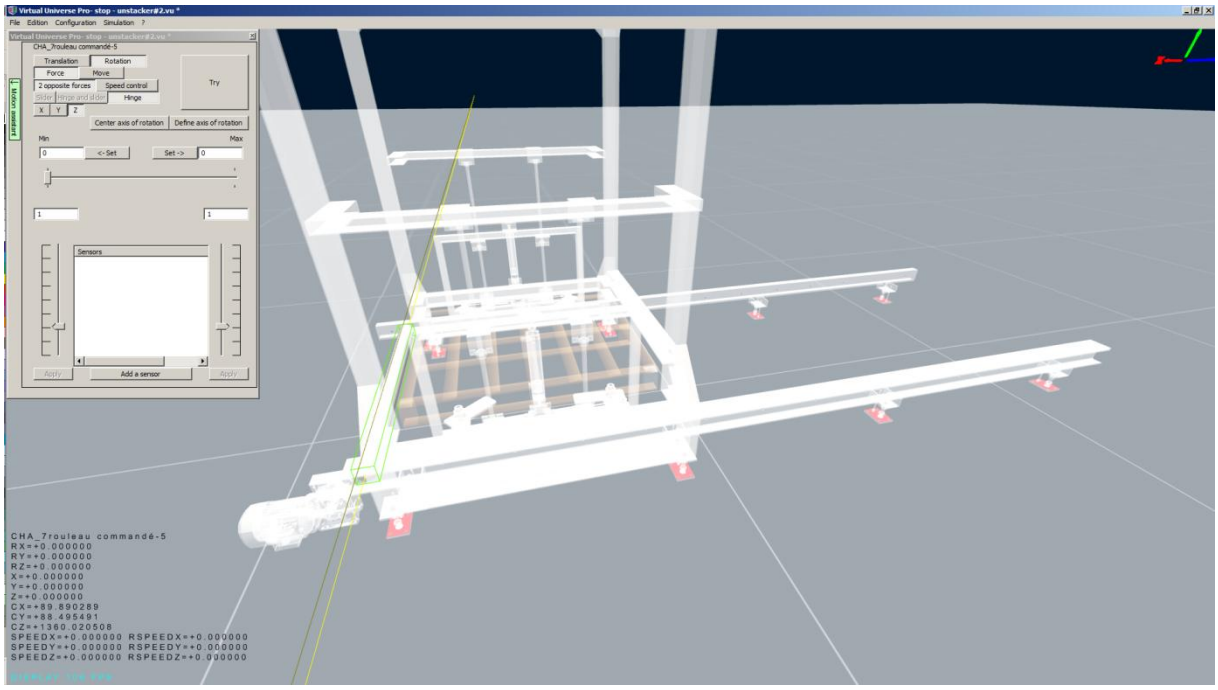


4.2.2.5- Selection of the axis

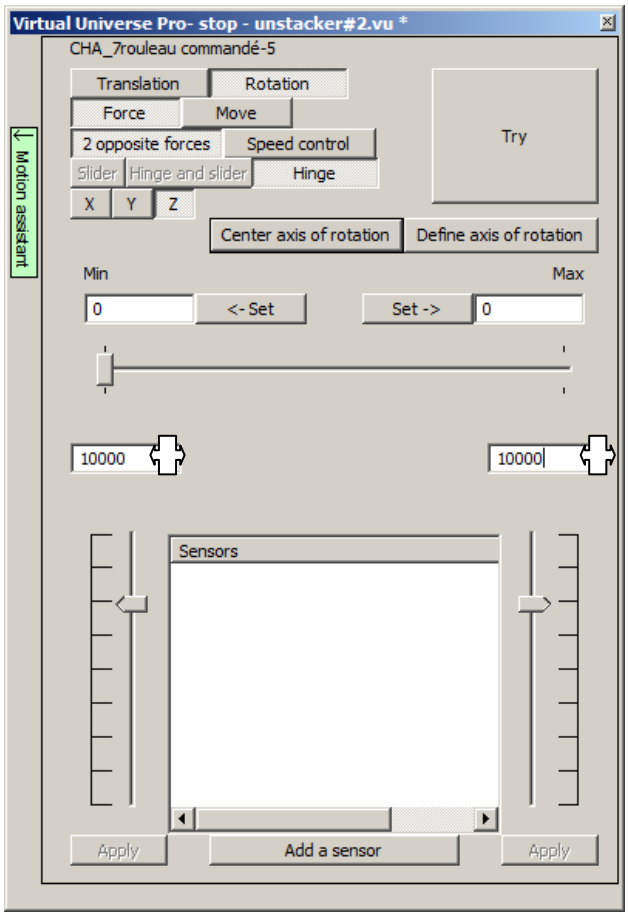


4.2.2.6- Center the axis of rotation on the geometric center of the object



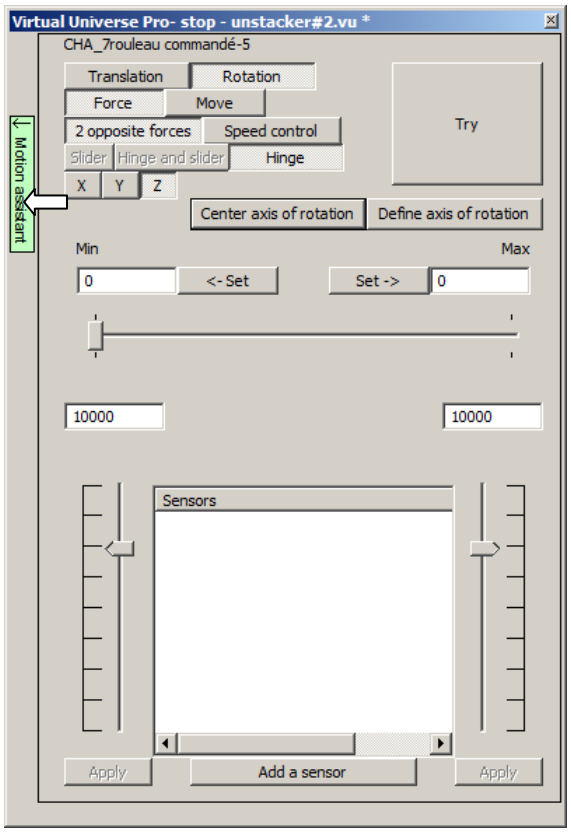

Virtual Universe Pro- stop - unstacker#2.vu *
File Edition Configuration Simulation ?
CHA_7rouleau commandé-5
Translation
Rotation
Force
Move
2 opposite forces
Speed control
Slider
Force and slider
Hinge
X
Y
Z
Try
Center axis of rotation
Define axis of rotation
Min
Max
<- Set
Set ->
Sensors
Apply
Add a sensor
Apply
CHA_7rouleau commandé-5
RX=+0.000000
RY=+0.000000
RZ=+0.000000
X=+0.000000
Y=+0.000000
Z=+0.000000
CX=+89.890289
CY=+88.495491
CZ=+1360.020508
SPEEDX=+0.000000 RSPEEDX=+0.000000
SPEEDY=+0.000000 RSPEEDY=+0.000000
SPEEDZ=+0.000000 RSPEEDZ=+0.000000

4.2.2.7- Definition of net torque for each direction of rotation



Note: this can be done empirically or according with the data of the real system.

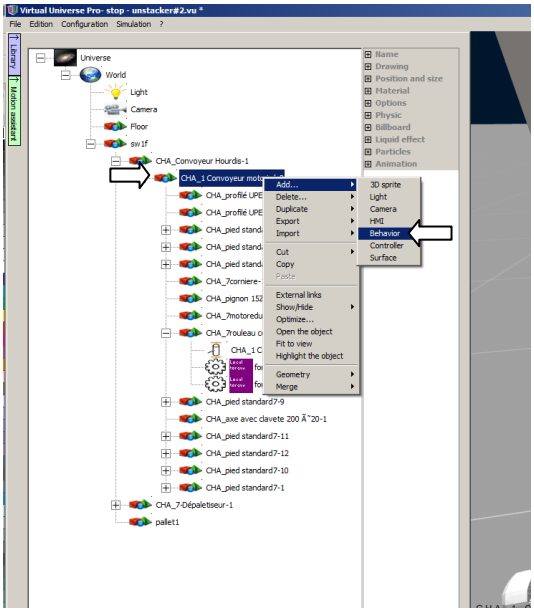
4.2.2.8- Wizard closes

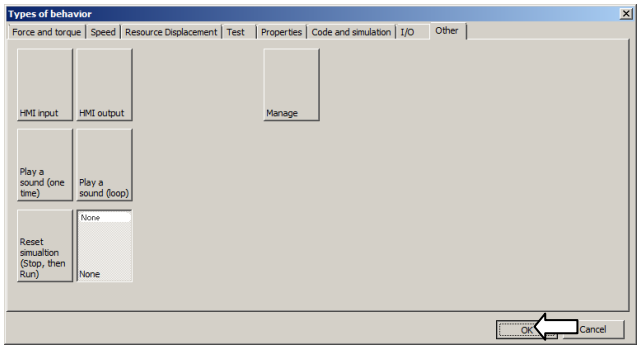


4.2.3- Create a behavior to control the rotation of the rollers

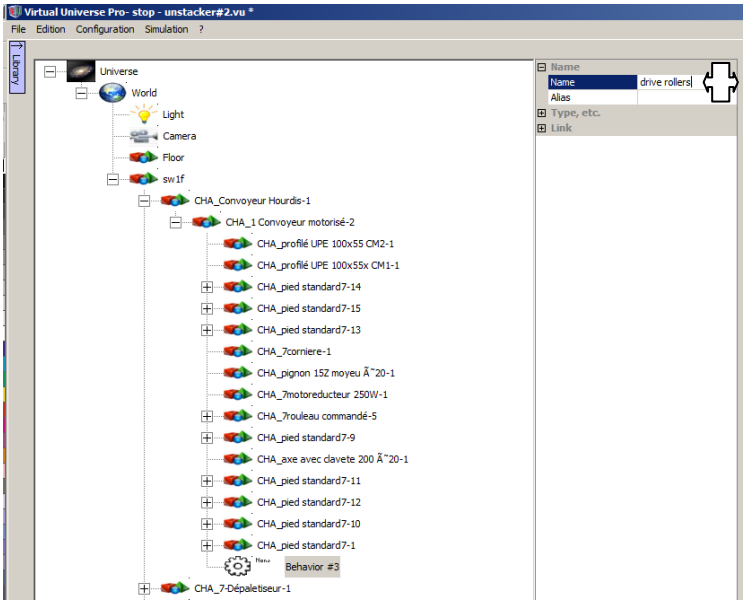
We can thus bind all drive rollers to this behavior and have a single state to change to drive all rollers.

4.2.3.1- Create a behavior

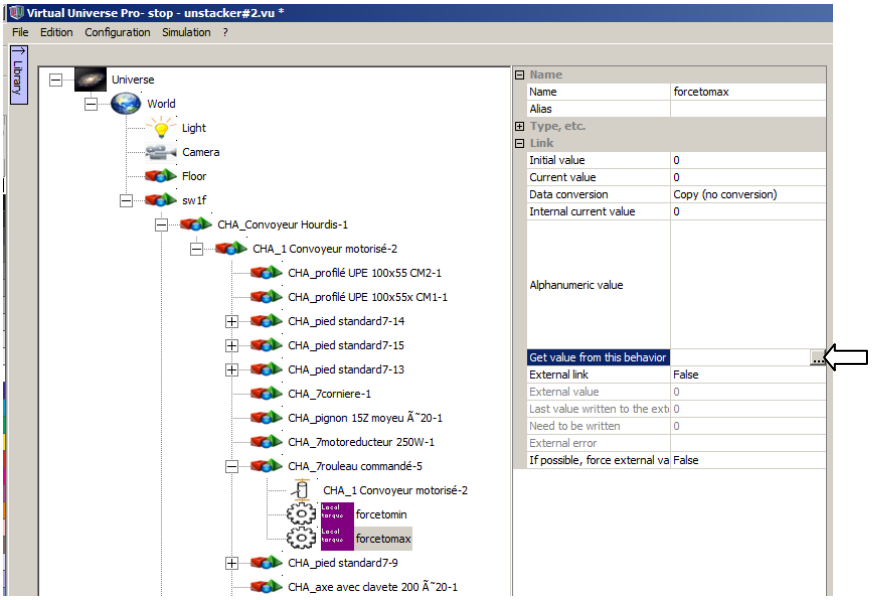


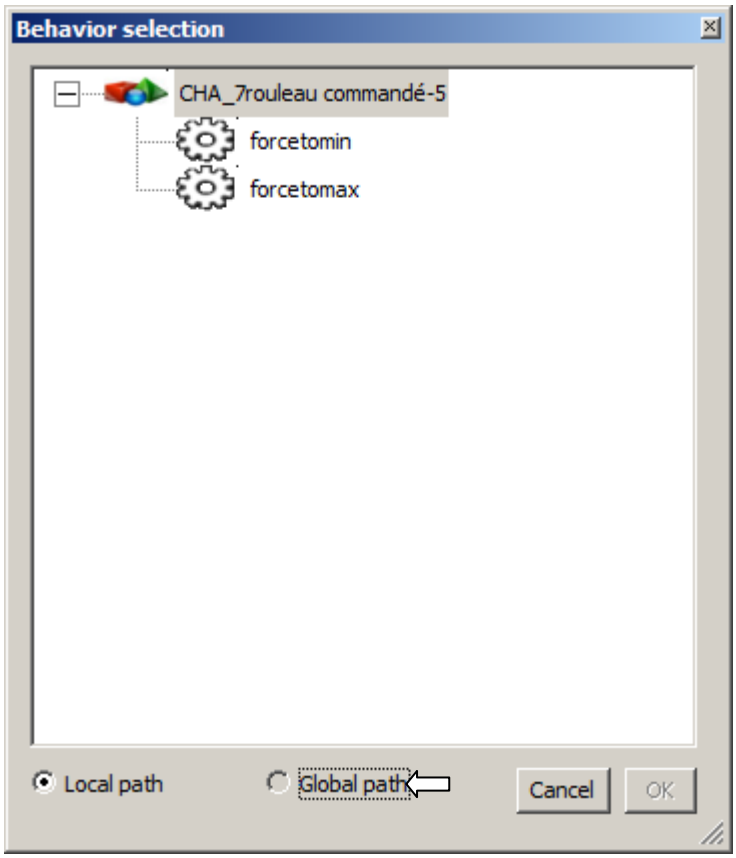


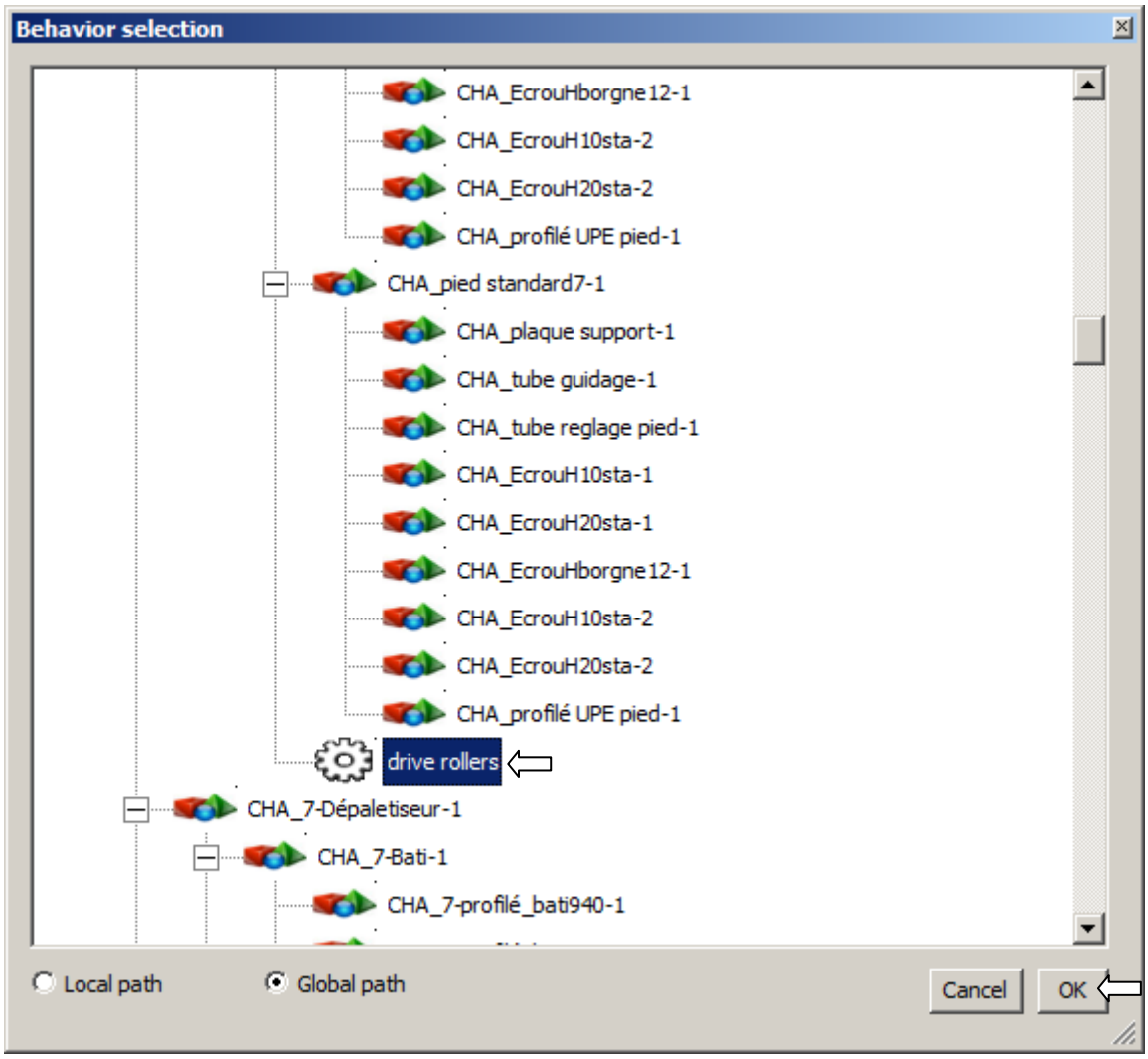
4.2.3.2- Rename the behavior



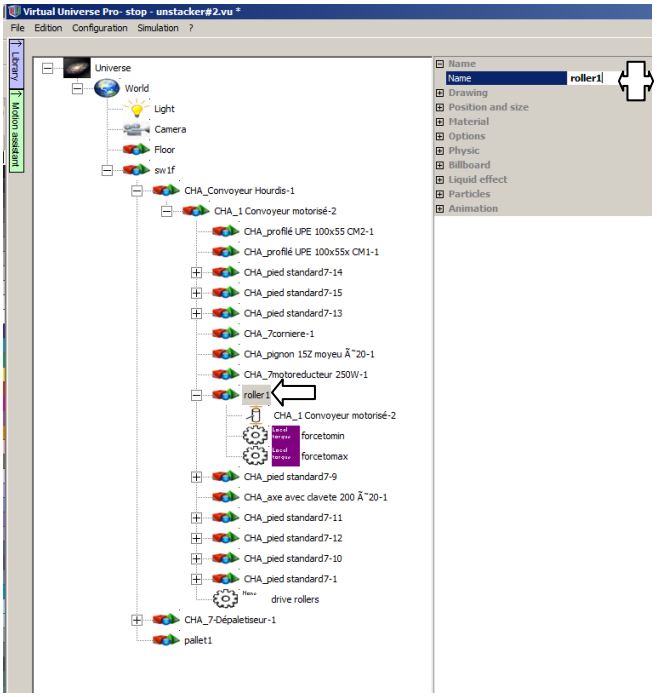
4.2.3.3- Define a link



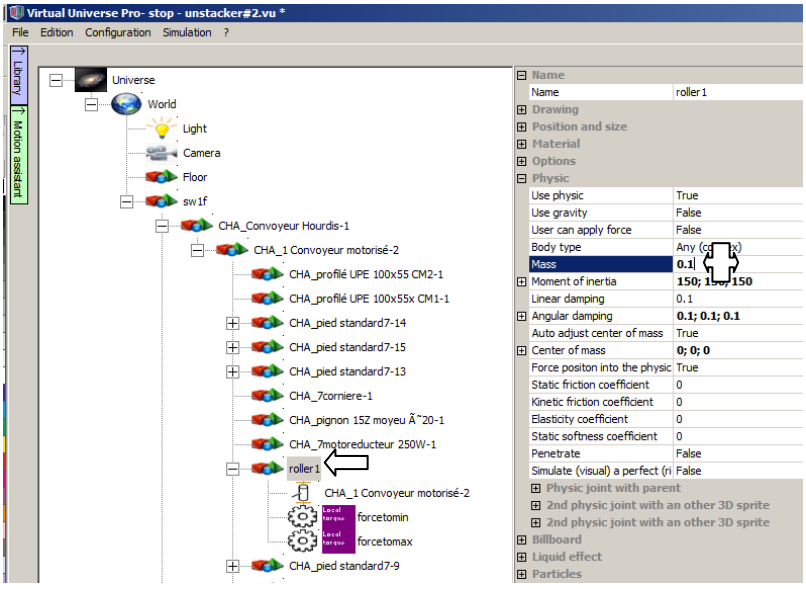

Behavior selection
CHA_7rouleau commandé-5
forcetomin
forcetomax
Local path
Global path
Cancel
OK


Behavior selection
CHA_EcrouHborgne12-1
CHA_EcrouH10sta-2
CHA_EcrouH20sta-2
CHA_profilé UPE pied-1
CHA_pied standard7-1
CHA_plaque support-1
CHA_tube guidage-1
CHA_tube reglage pied-1
CHA_EcrouH10sta-1
CHA_EcrouH20sta-1
CHA_EcrouHborgne12-1
CHA_EcrouH10sta-2
CHA_EcrouH20sta-2
CHA_profilé UPE pied-1
drive rollers
CHA_7-Dépaletiseur-1
CHA_7-Bati-1
CHA_7-profilé_bati940-1
Local path
Global path
Cancel
OK

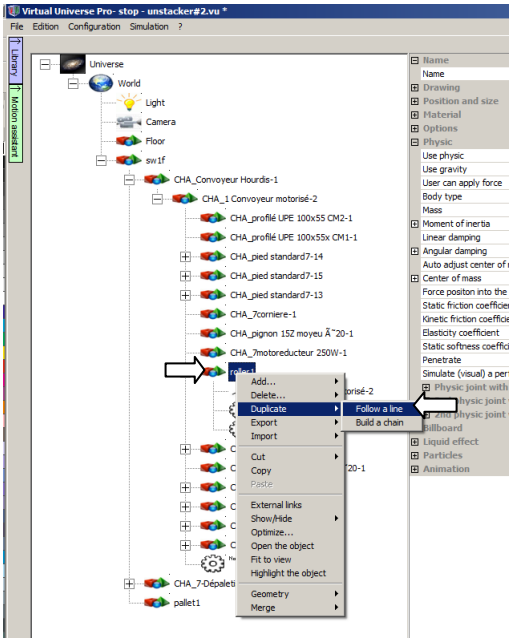
4.2.4- Rename

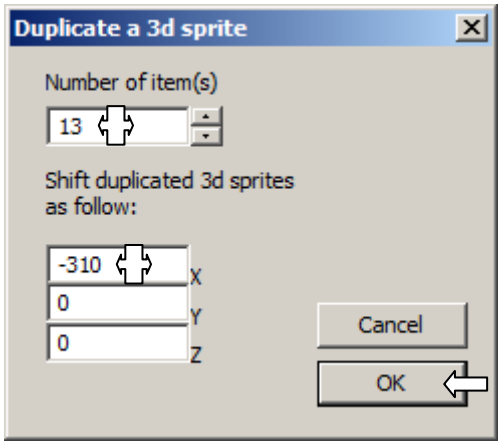


4.2.5- Adjust the physical properties of the roller

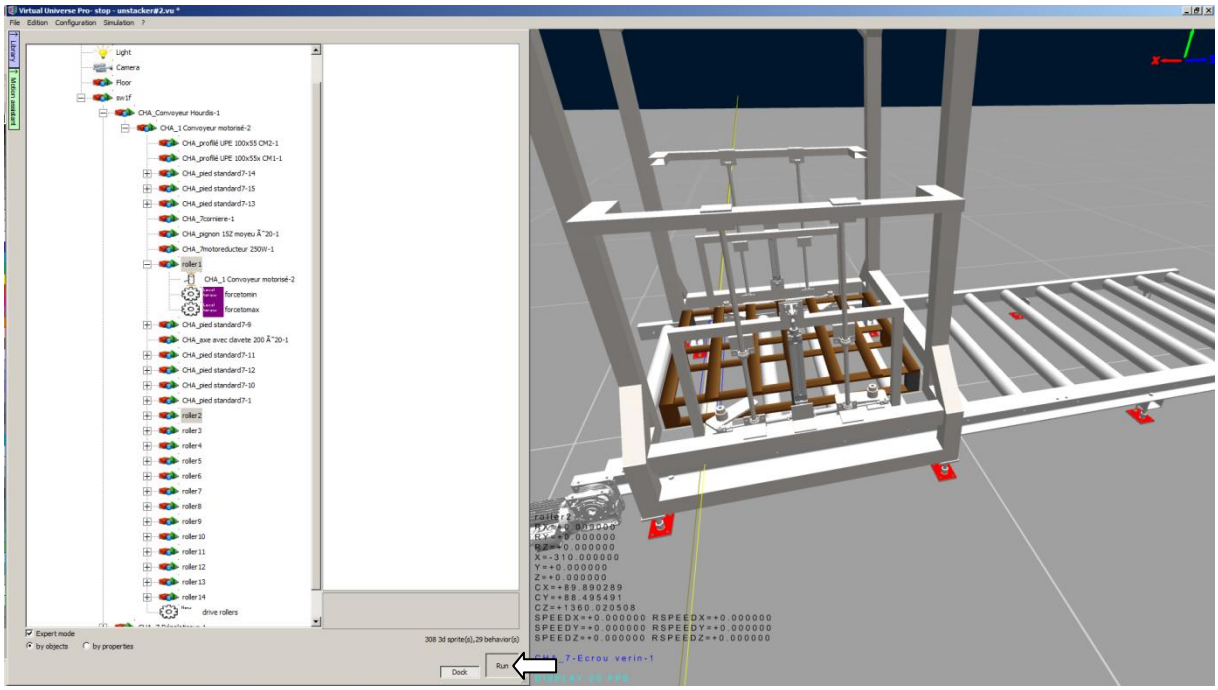


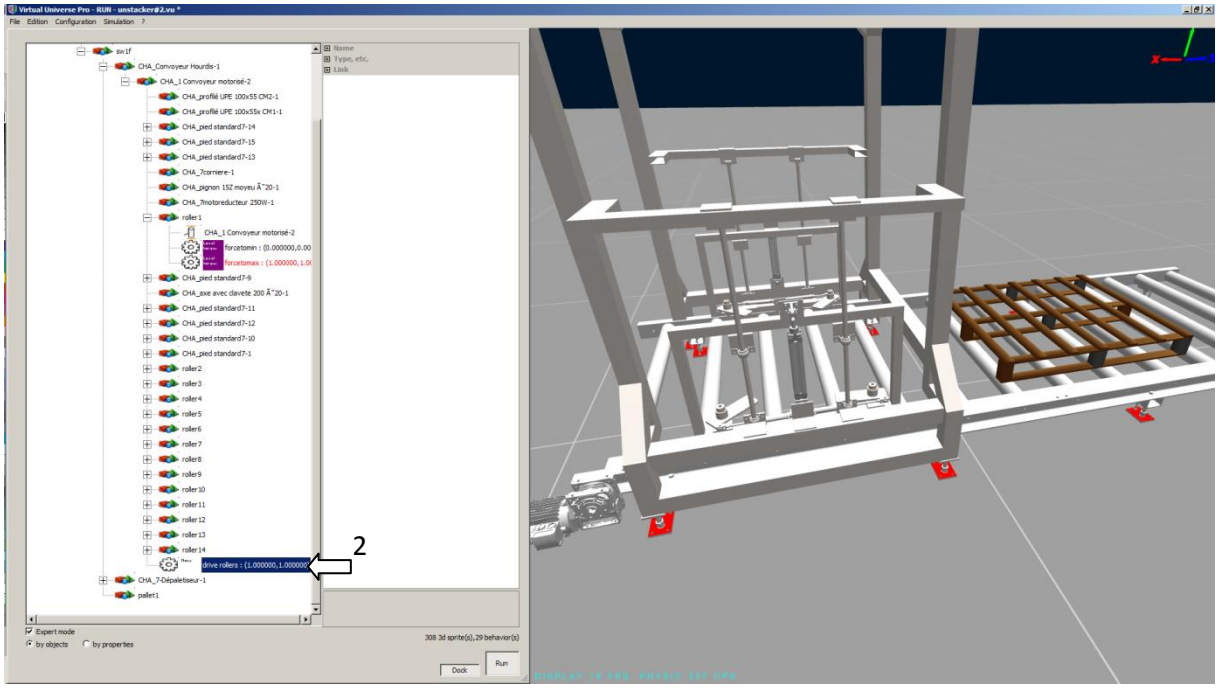
4.2.6- Duplicate the rollers



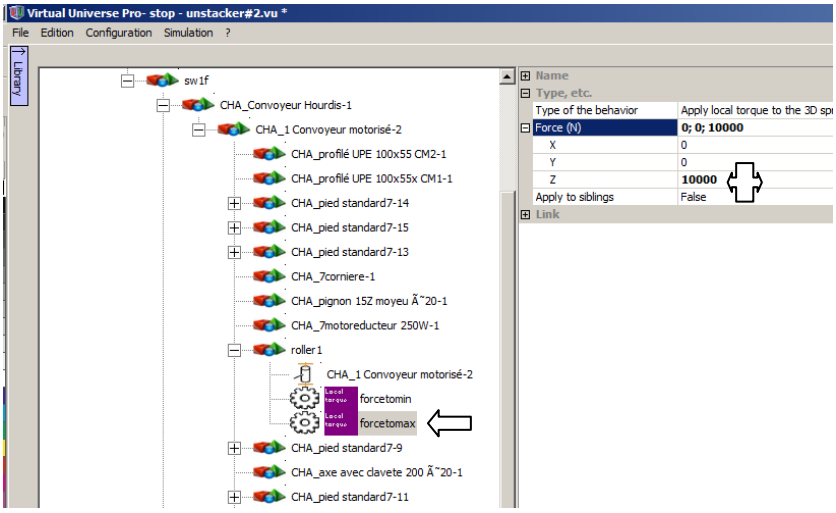


4.2.7- Testing the conveying part





The values of the net torque can be adjusted on each roller depending on the desired speed:



Switching between the STOP mode and RUN mode allow you to change settings and observe the result immediately.

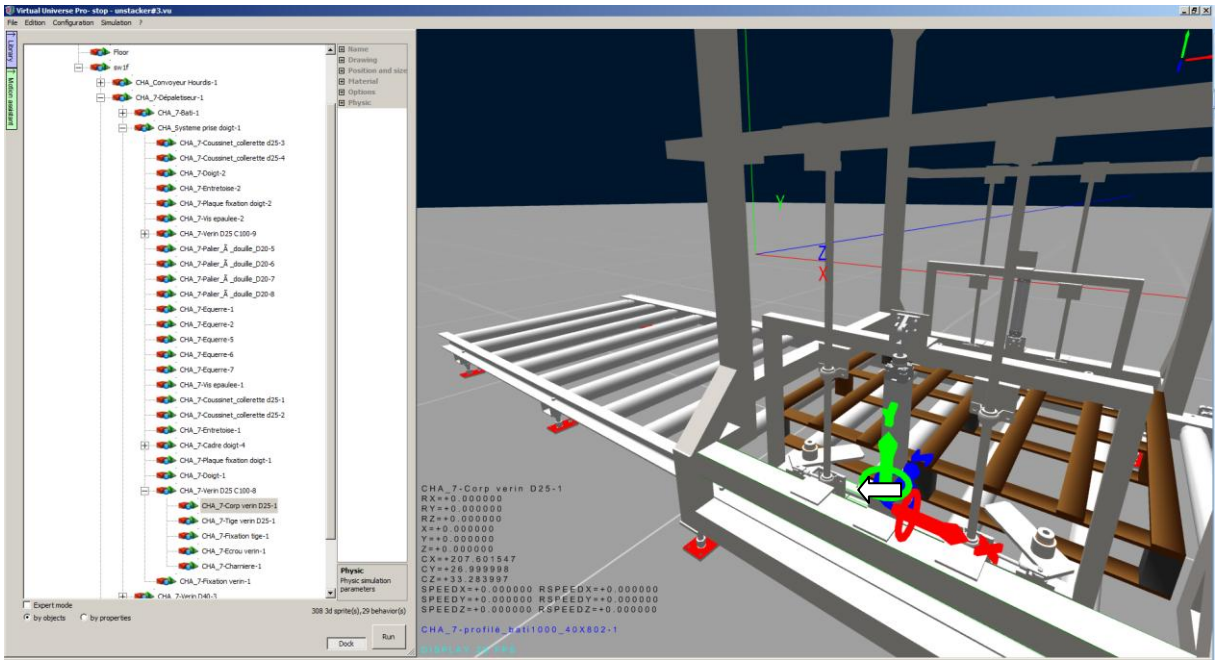
#3

4.3- Setting a finger

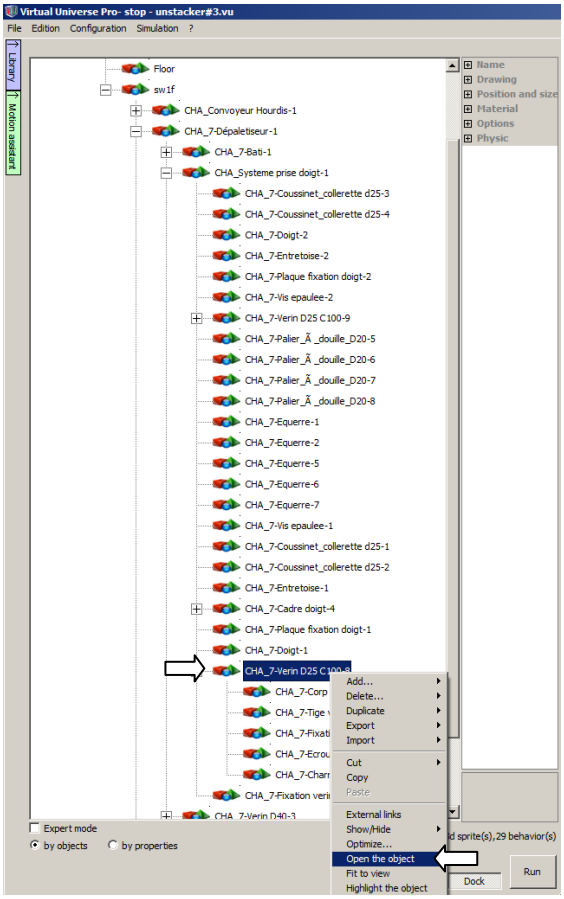
4.3.1- Setting the cylinder rod

4.3.1.1- Preparation of the cylinder

4.3.1.1.1- Visual selection of cylinder

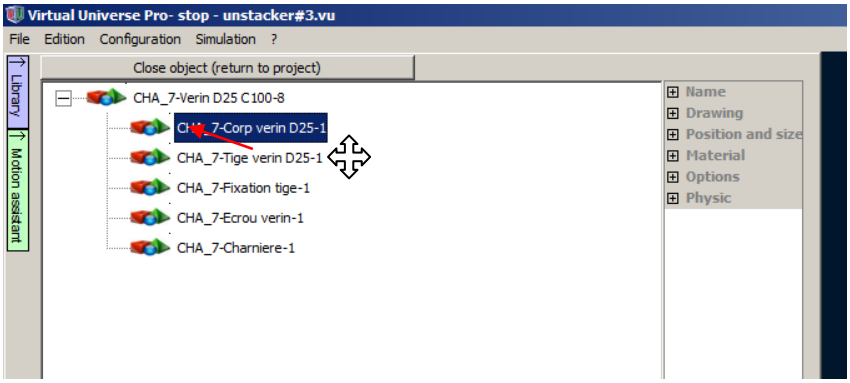


4.3.1.1.2- Opening the parent

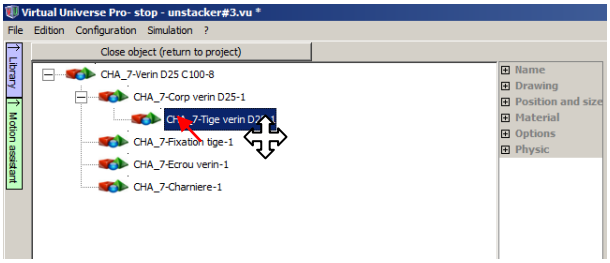


4.3.1.1.3- Restructuring data

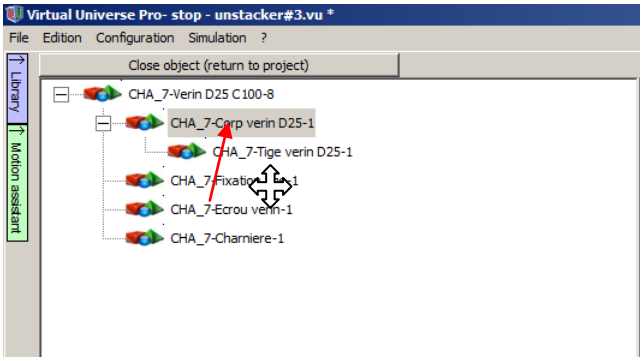
4.3.1.1.3.1- Make the rod child of the cylinder body



4.3.1.1.3.2- Make the rod fixation child of the rod

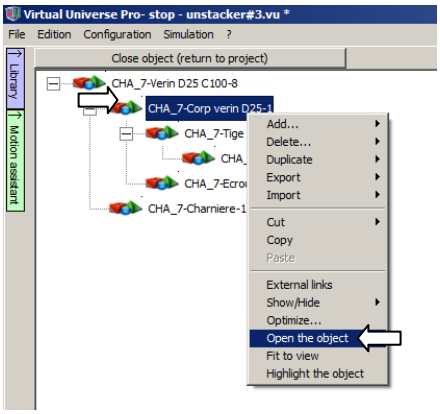


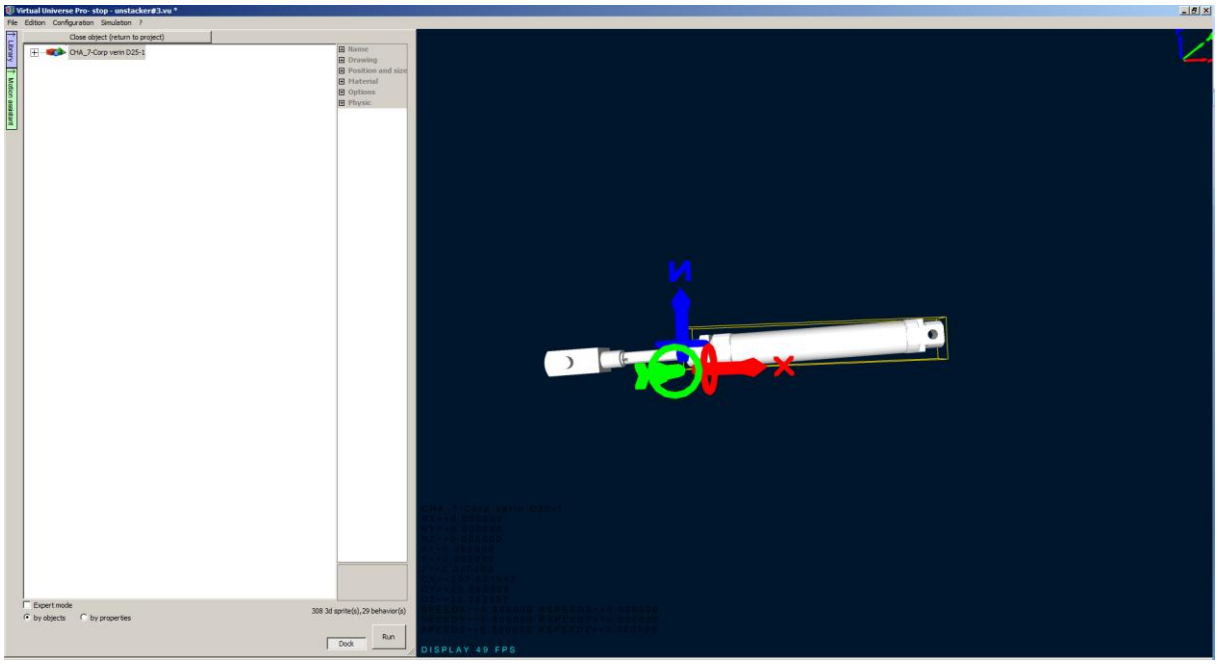
4.3.1.1.3.3- Make the nut child of the cylinder body



4.3.1.1.4- Realignment of the cylinder axis

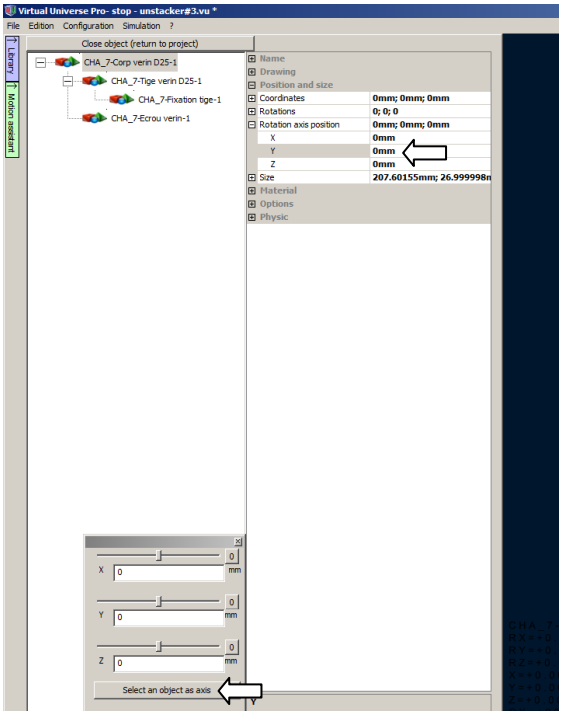
4.3.1.1.4.1- Opening of the cylinder body

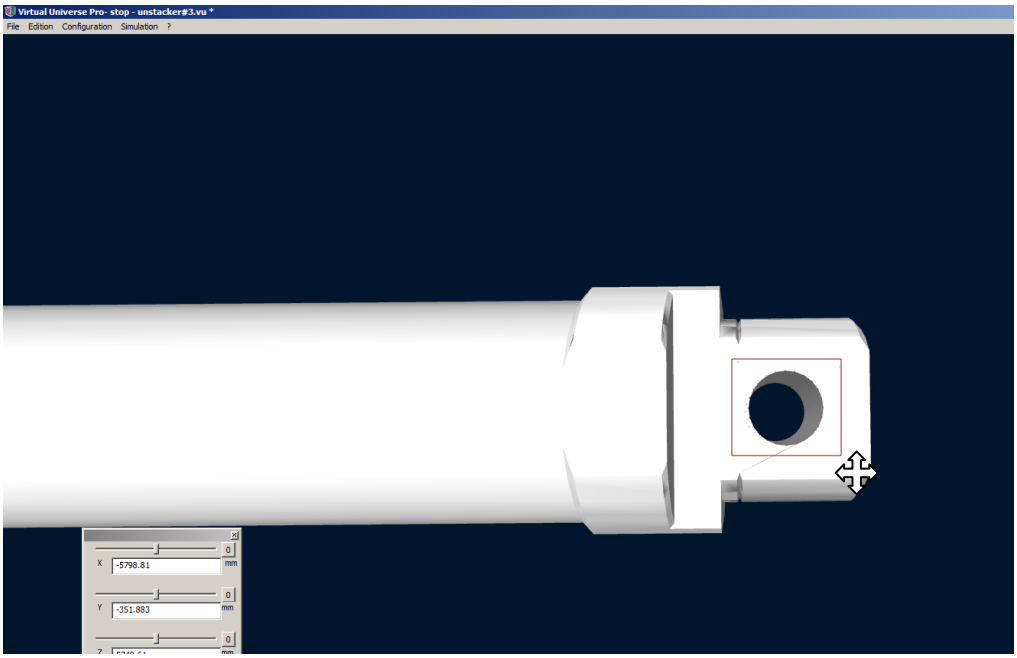




We see that the objects are not aligned along the X axis It is easier to create objects aligned with the axes in the design software. However, we can realign objects in Virtual Universe Pro with the following procedure.

4.3.1.1.4.2- Setting the position of the axis of rotation

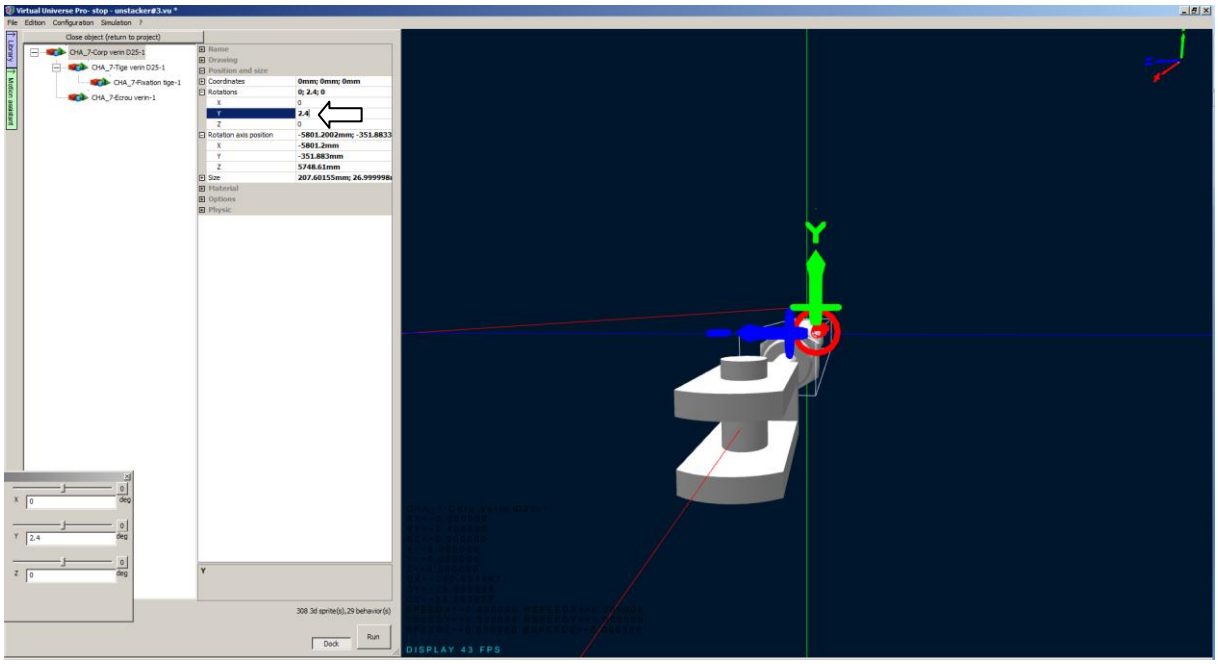




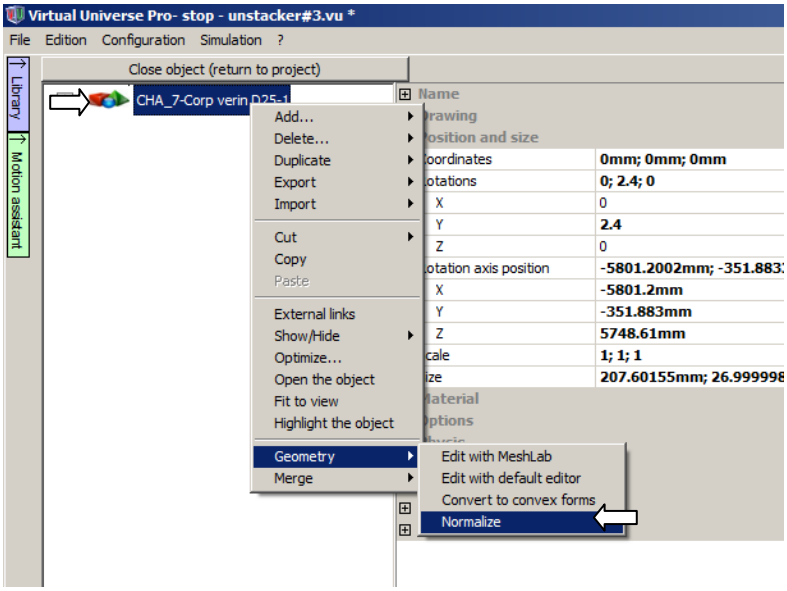
The selection of an area on the screen will center the axis of rotation relative to the points cloud included in the selection.

4.3.1.1.4.3- Rotation to be aligned with the axis

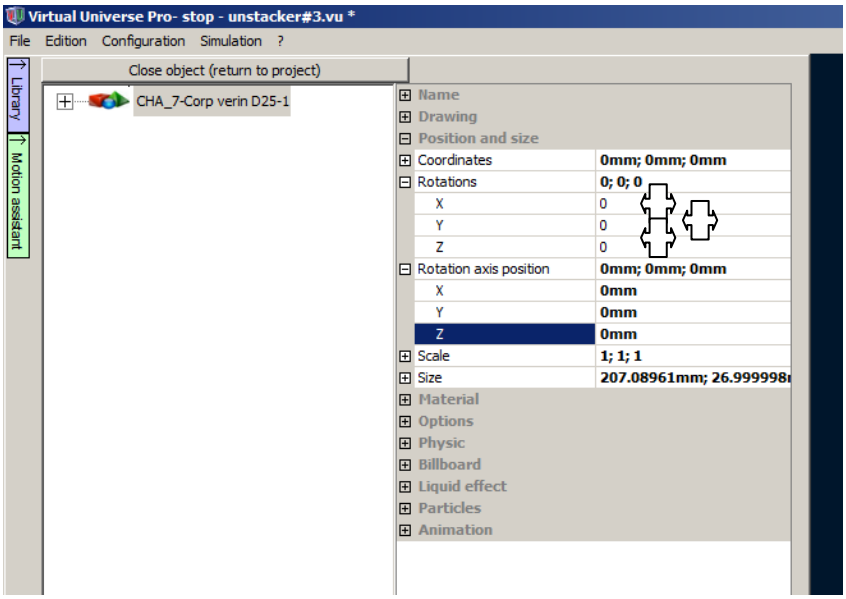
We perform a visual realignment.



4.3.1.1.4.4- Normalization of the geometry

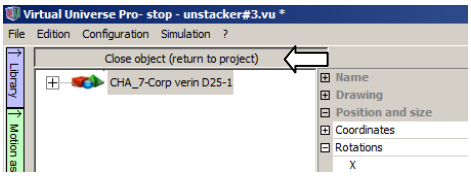


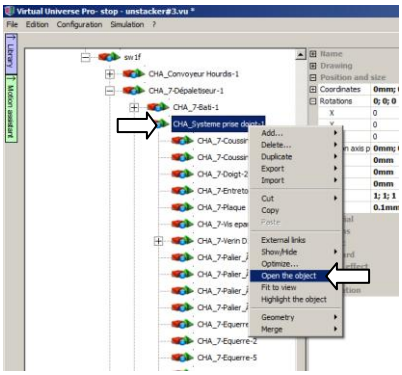
4.3.1.1.4.5- Restoration of the axis of rotation



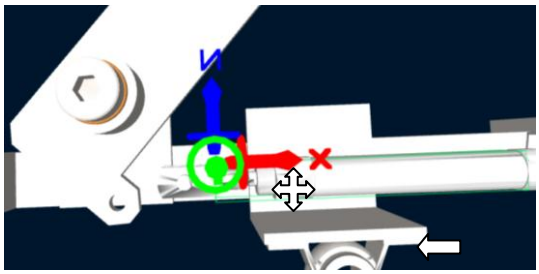
4.3.1.1.4.6- Redefinition of the initial positions

The purpose of this sequence is to define a starting position where the cylinder is aligned with the X axis by changing the initial position of the rod and of the finger. This could have been done in the CAD tool.

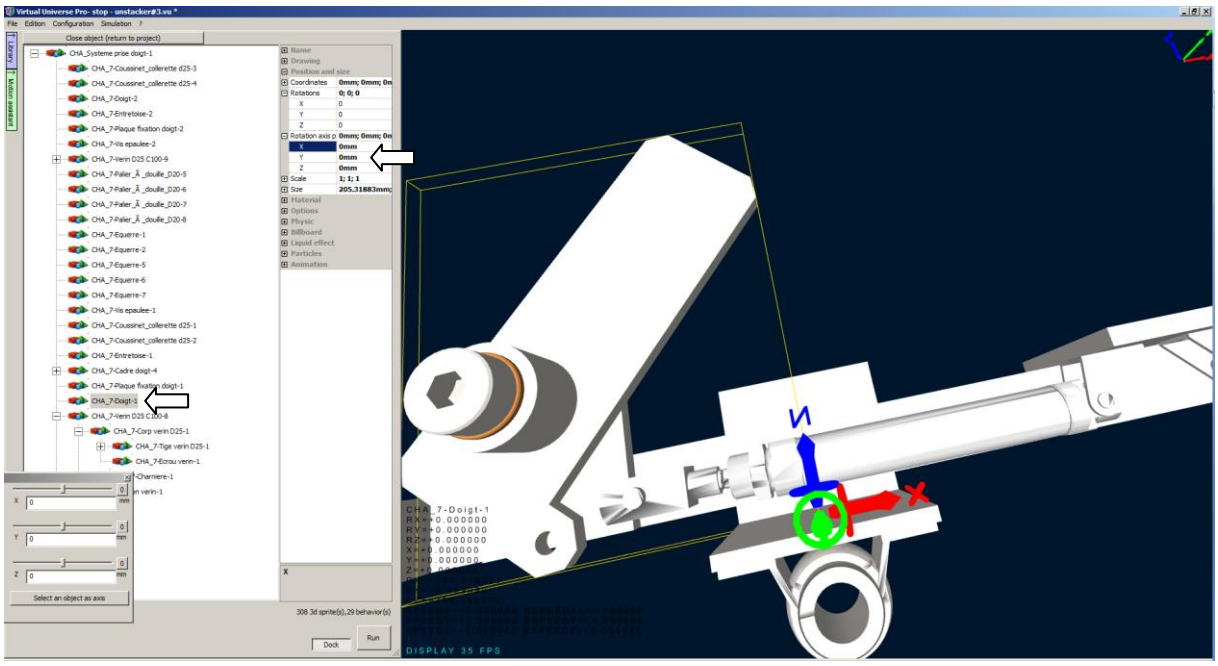


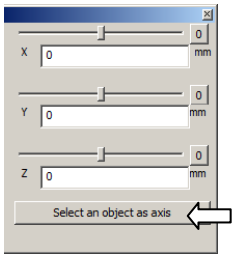


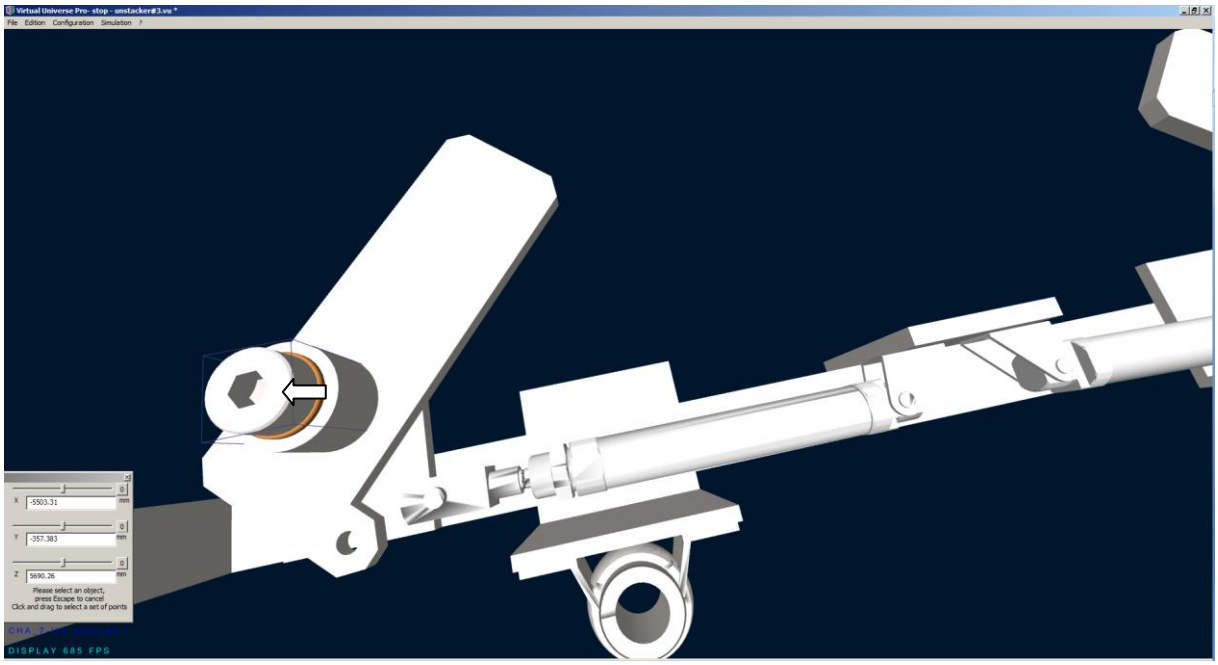
4.3.1.1.4.6.1- Cylinder rod

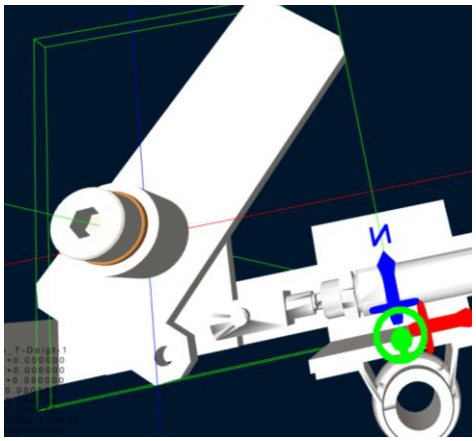


4.3.1.1.4.6.2- Finger

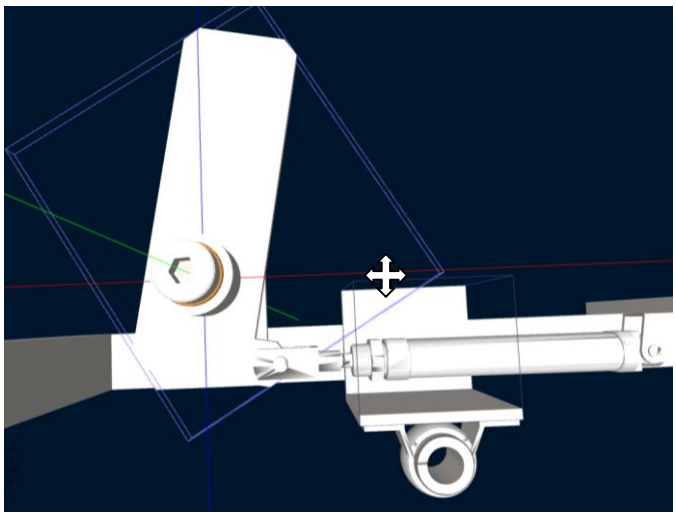




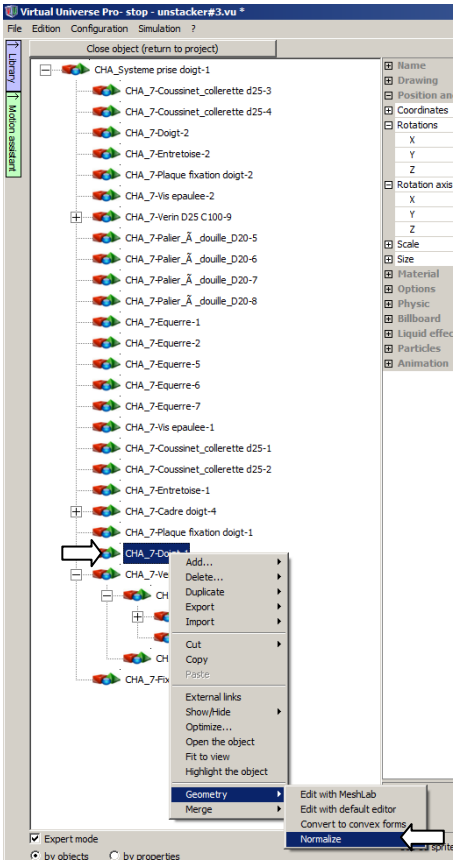




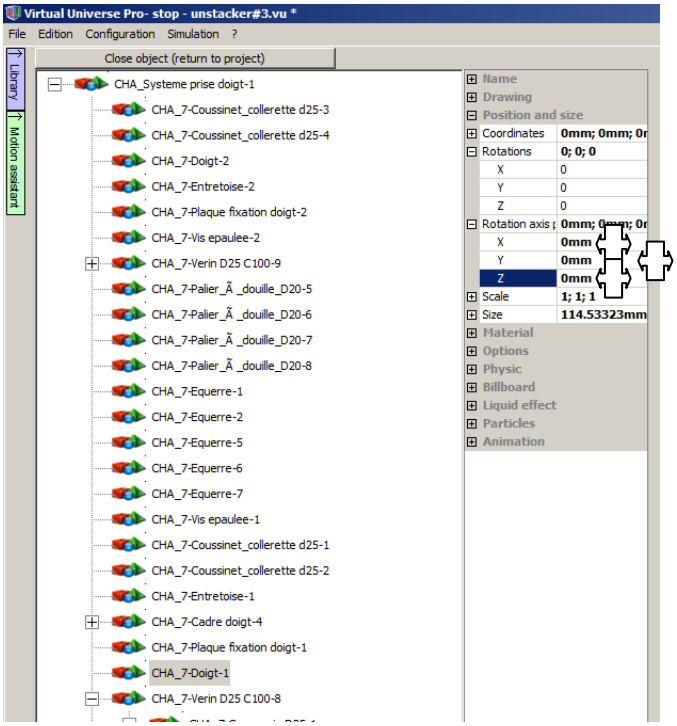
Take the green torus to rotate the finger on the Y axis



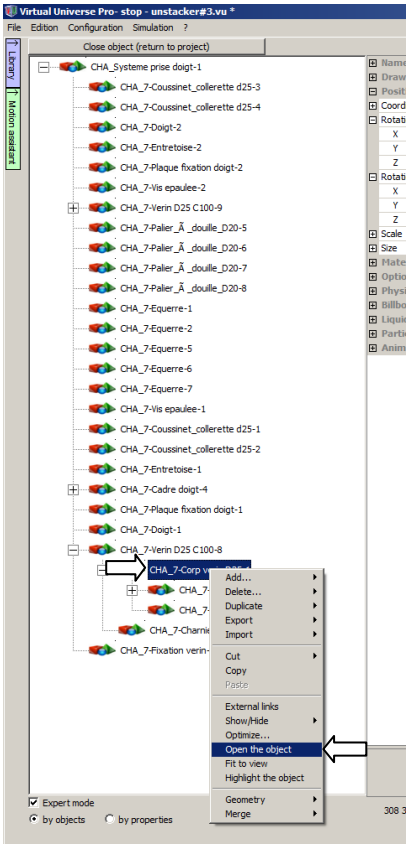
4.3.1.1.4.6.2.1- Normalize the position



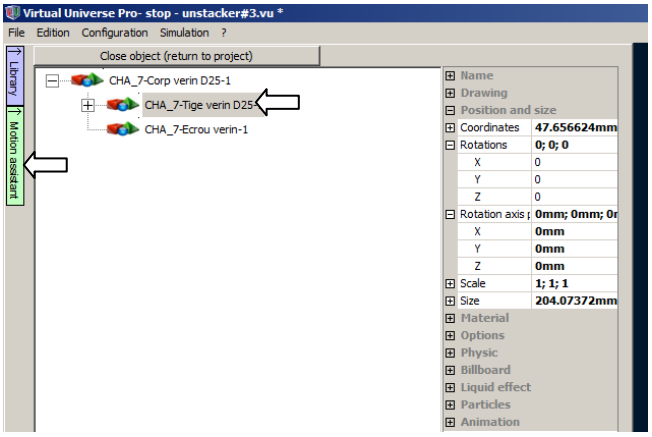
4.3.1.1.4.6.2.2- Restoration of the axis of rotation



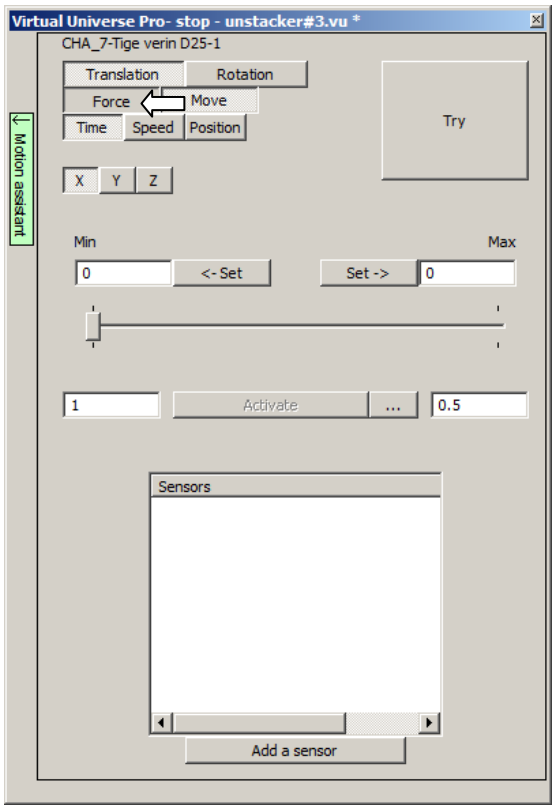
4.3.1.2- Setting the motion of the cylinder rod



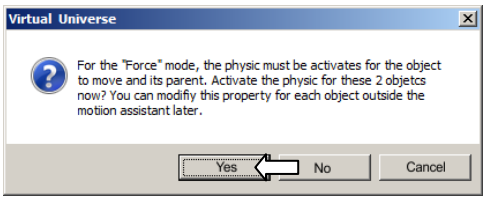
4.3.1.2.1- Opening the assistant



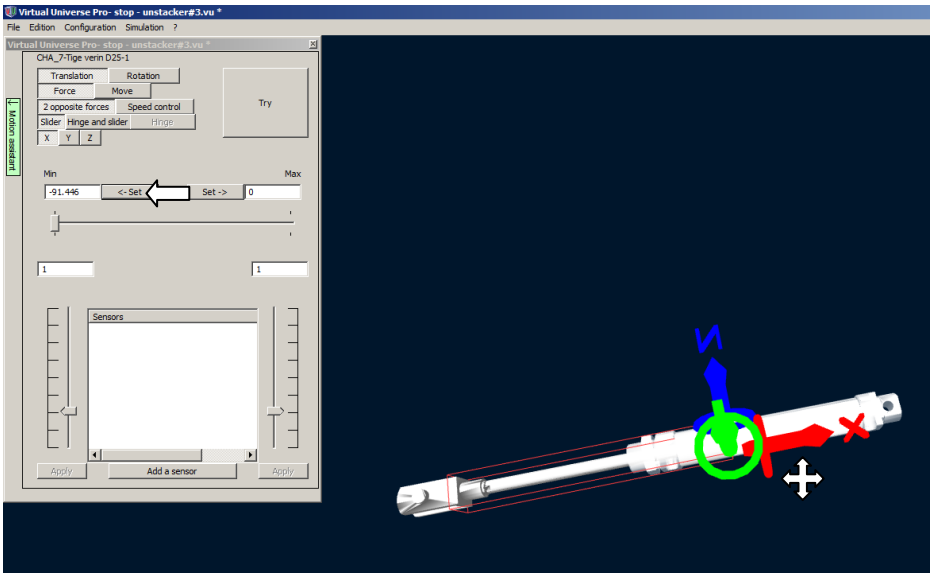
4.3.1.2.2- Selecting the "force" mode



4.3.1.2.3- Accepting of the change object properties

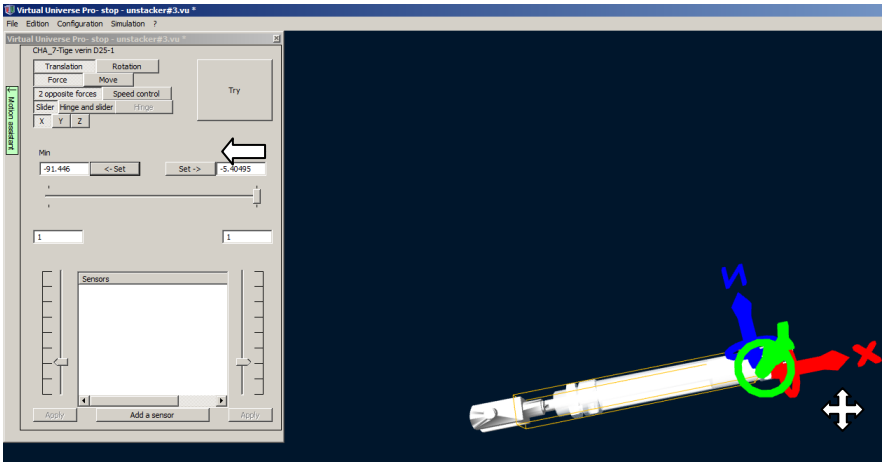


4.3.1.2.4- Definition of the extreme position of the exit rod

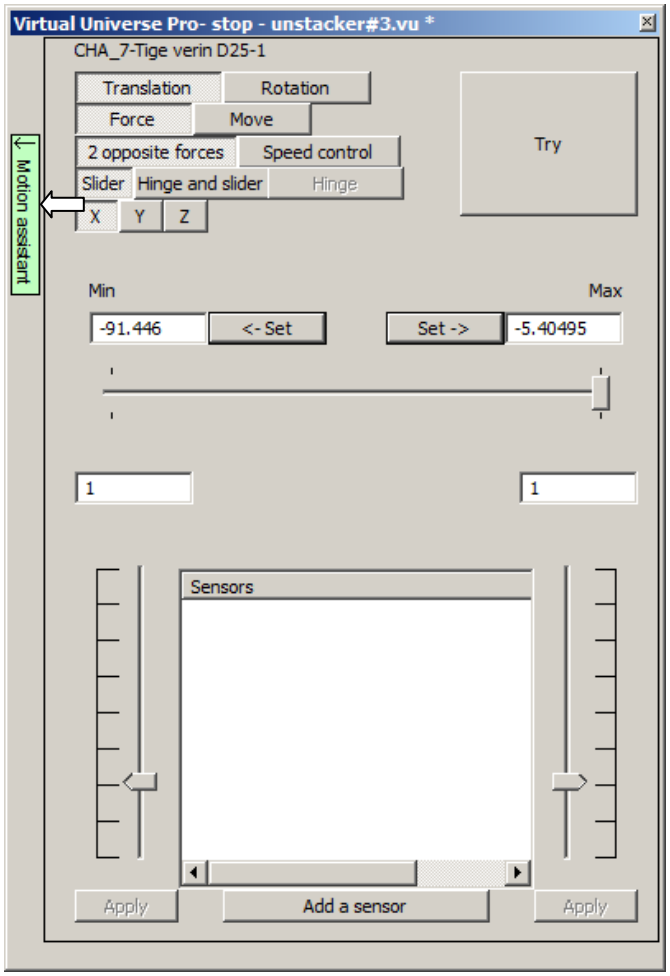


To move the rod, move the red arrow "X".

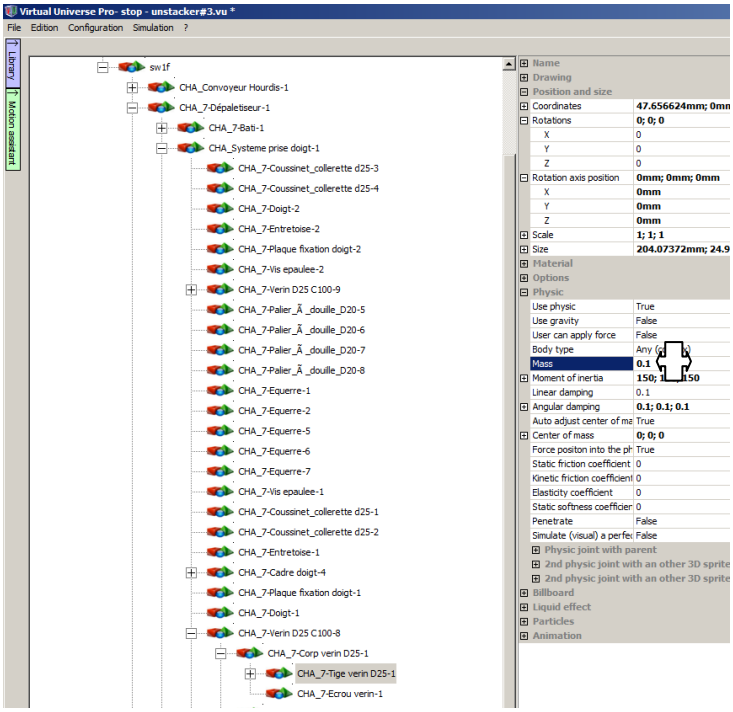
4.3.1.2.5- Definition of the extreme return position of the rod



4.3.1.2.6- Exit the wizard



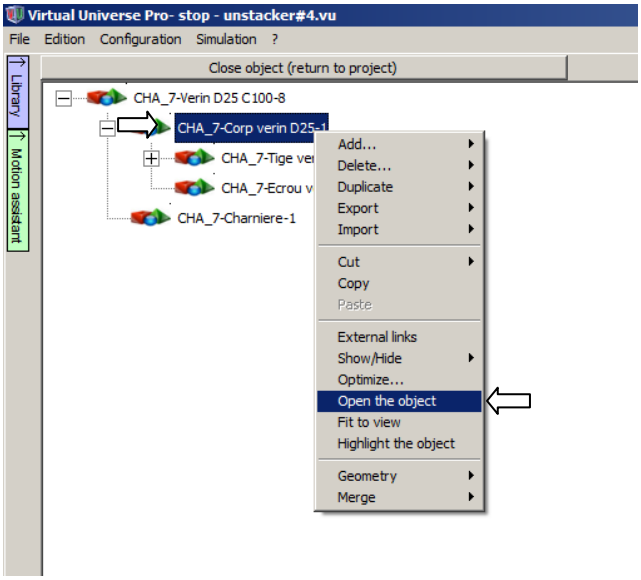
4.3.1.3- Definition of physical properties of the cylinder rod



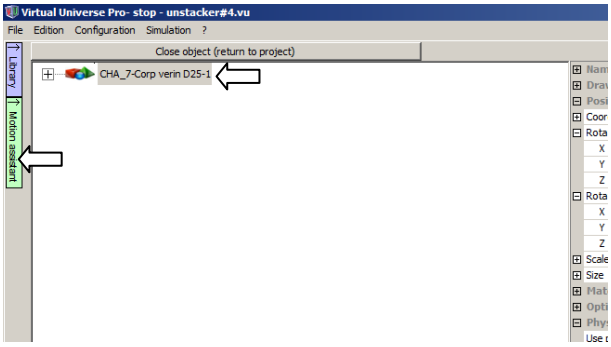
#4

4.3.1.4- Setting the motion of the cylinder body

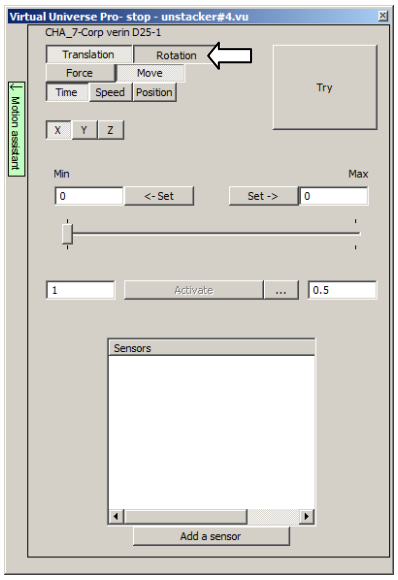
4.3.1.4.1- Opening of the cylinder body



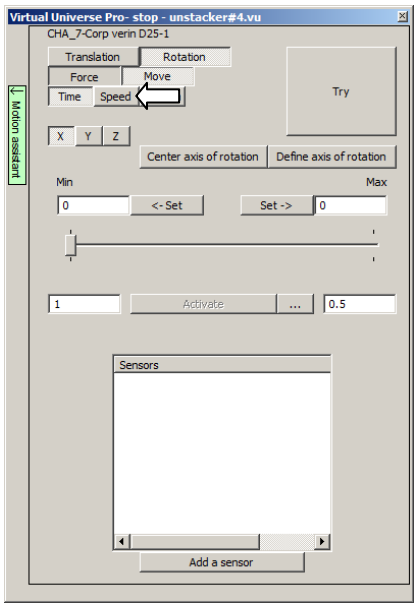
4.3.1.4.2- Opening the assistant



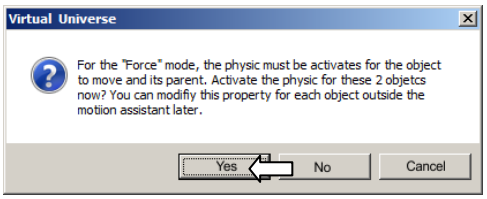
4.3.1.4.3- Selecting of "rotation" mode



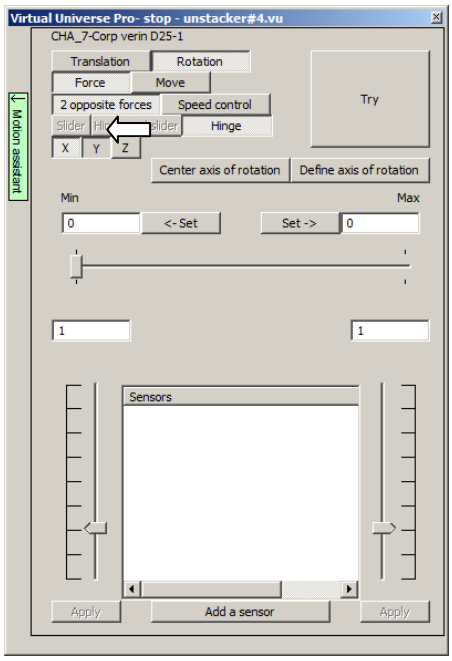
4.3.1.4.5- Selecting of "force" mode



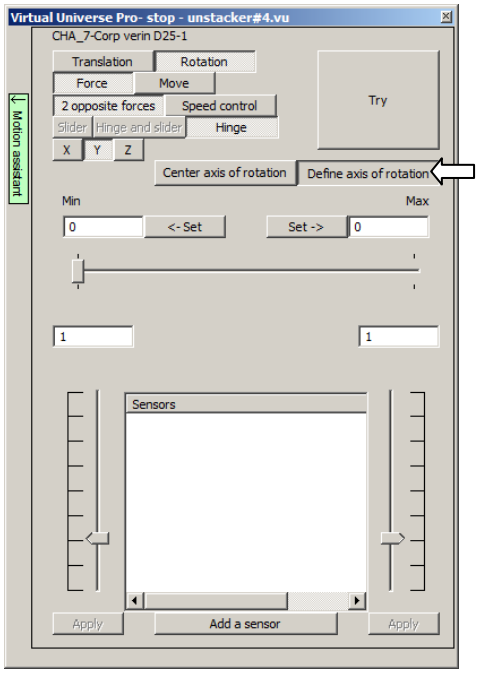
4.3.1.4.6- Accepting change object properties

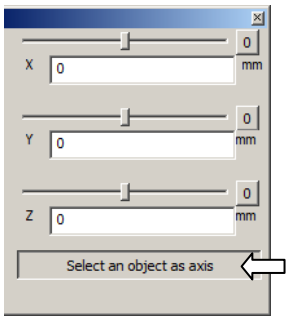


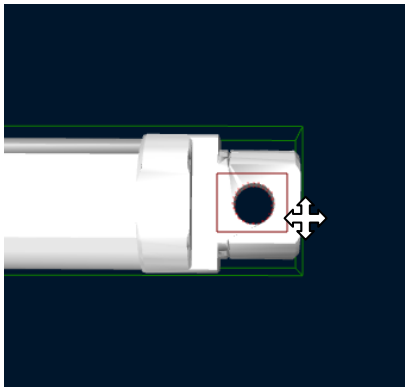
4.3.1.4.7- Definition of the axis of rotation



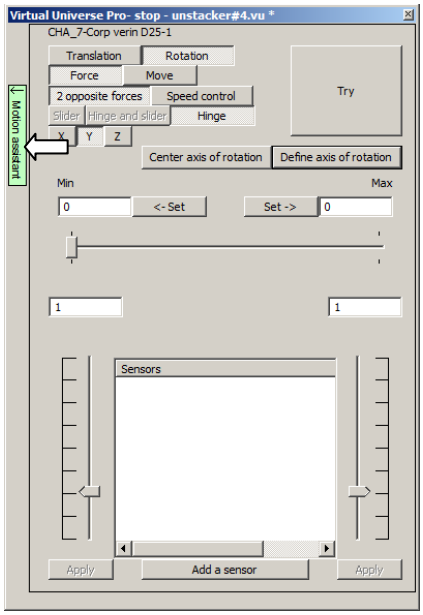
4.3.1.4.8- Setting the position of the axis of rotation



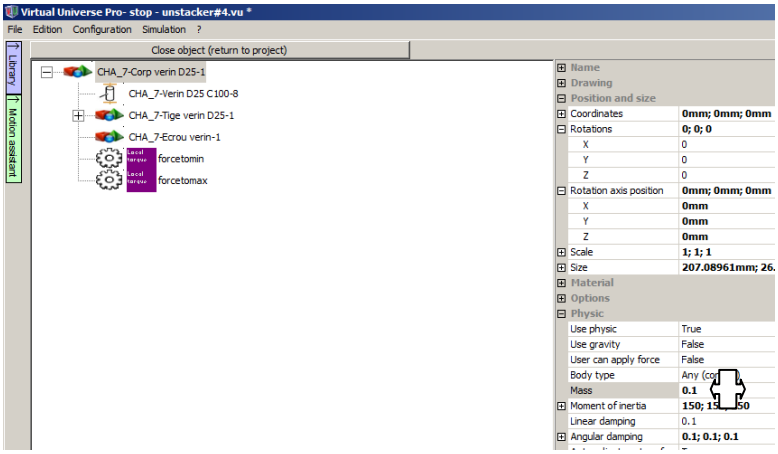




4.3.1.4.9- Exit the wizard

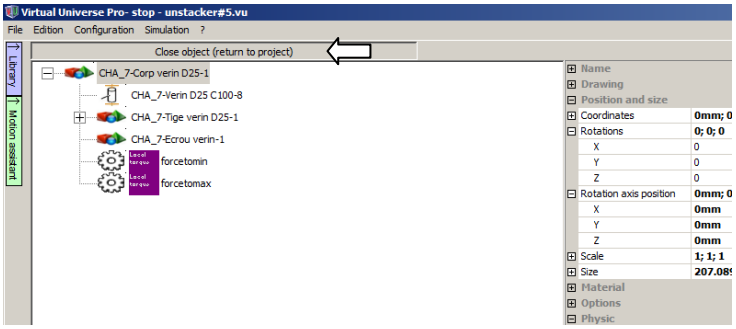


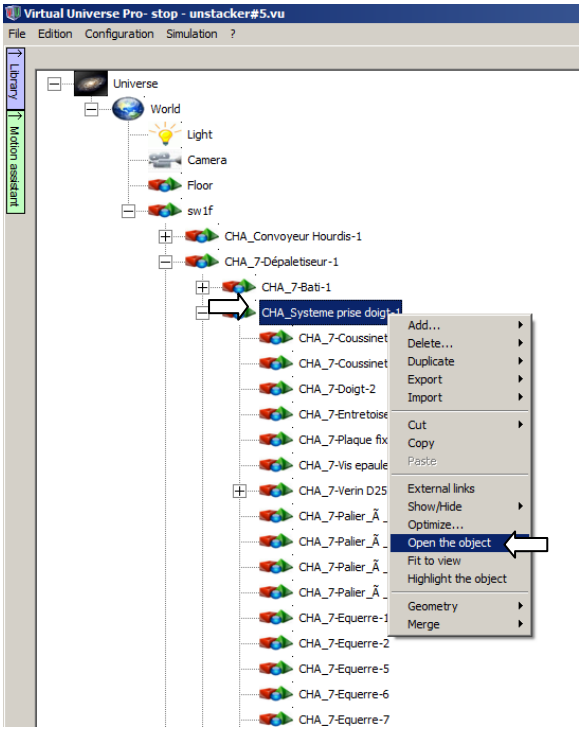
4.3.1.5- Setting the physical properties of the cylinder body



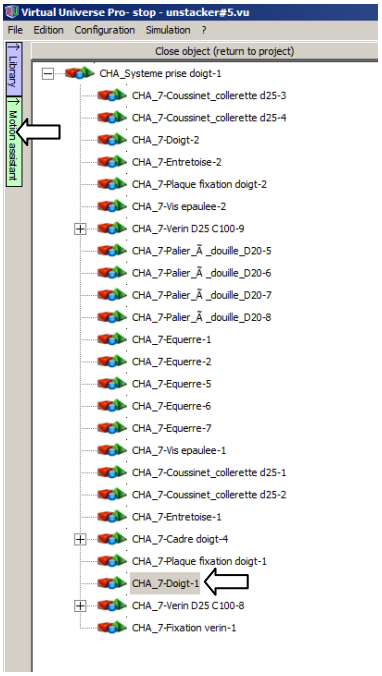
#5

4.3.1.6- Setting the finger movement

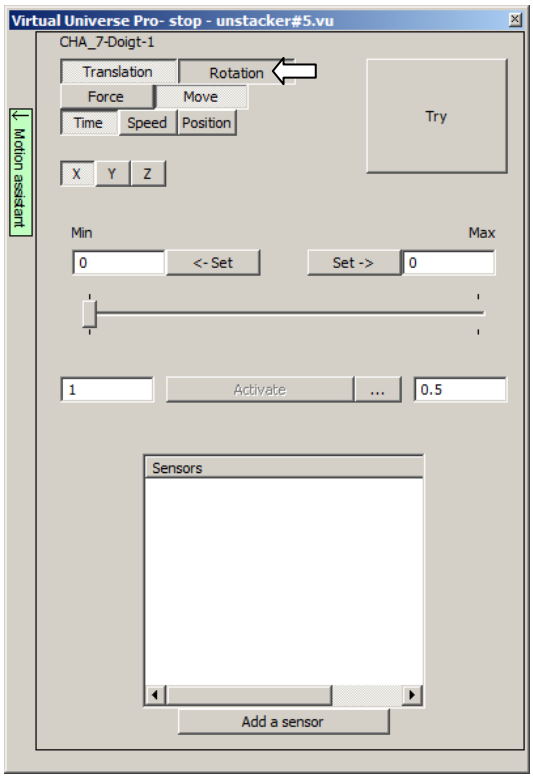




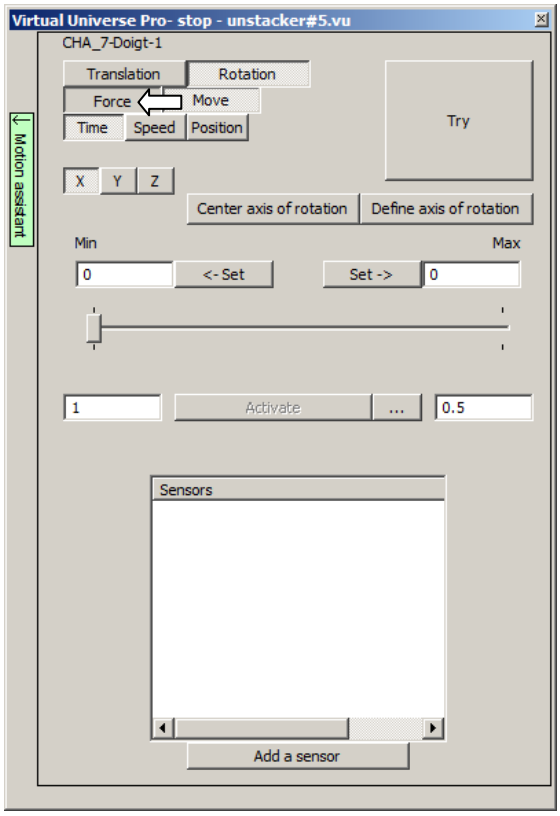
4.3.1.6.1- Opening the assistant



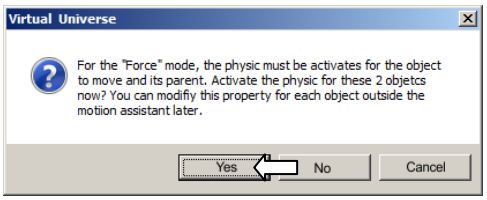
4.3.1.6.2- Selecting of "rotation" mode



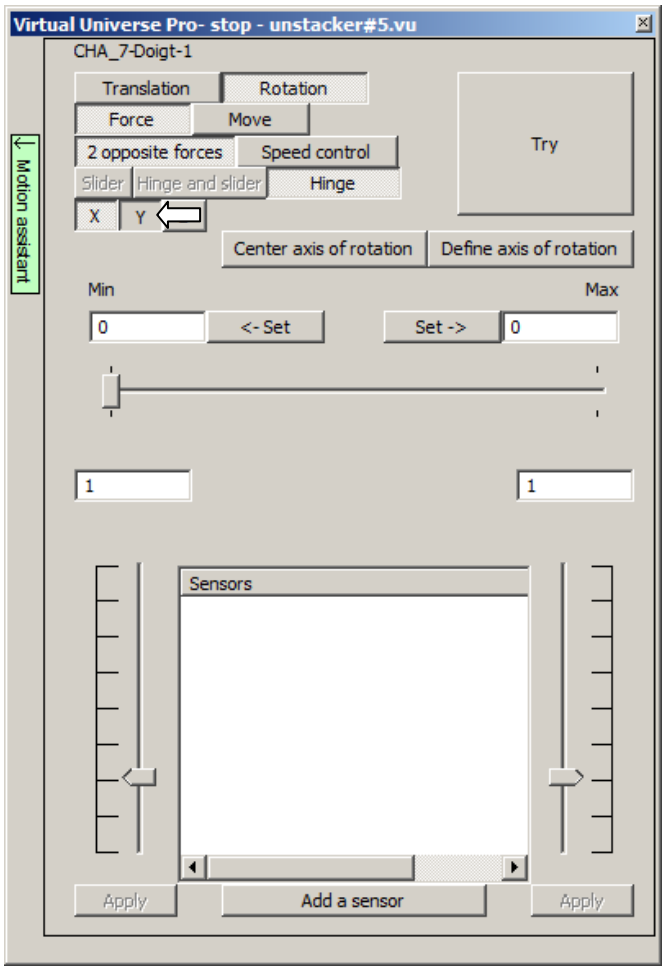
4.3.1.6.3- Selecting of "force" mode



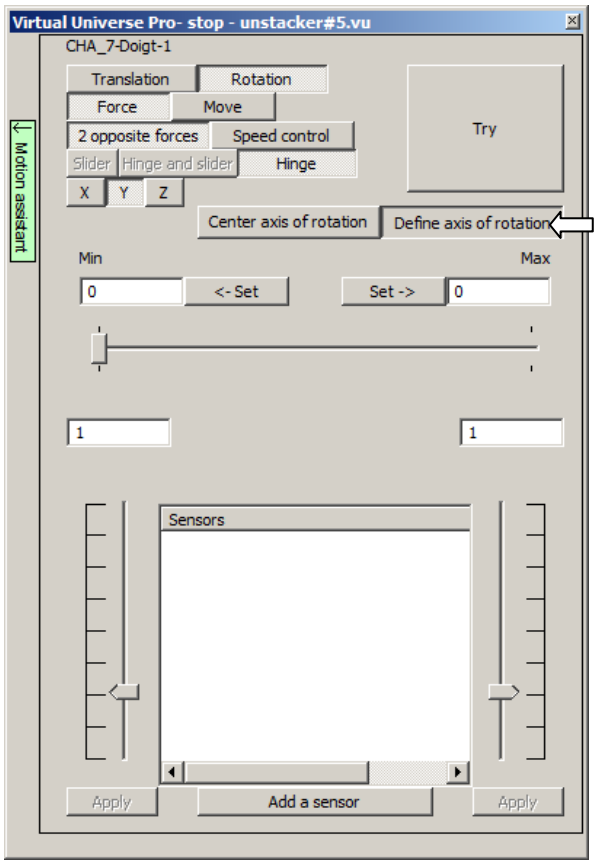
4.3.1.6.4- Accepting of the change object properties

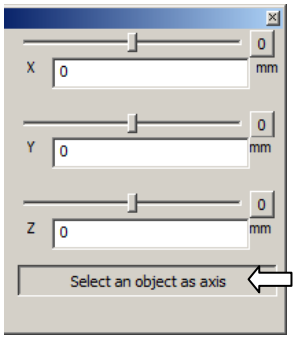


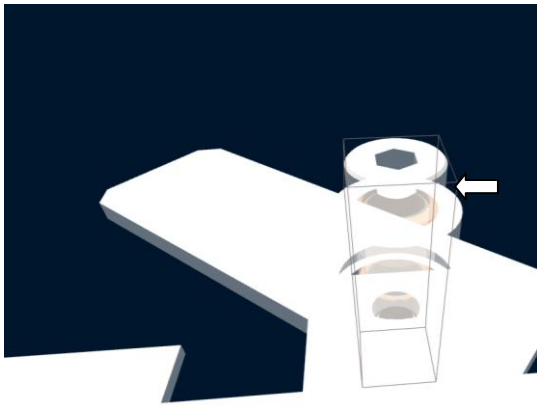
4.3.1.6.5- Definition of the axis of rotation



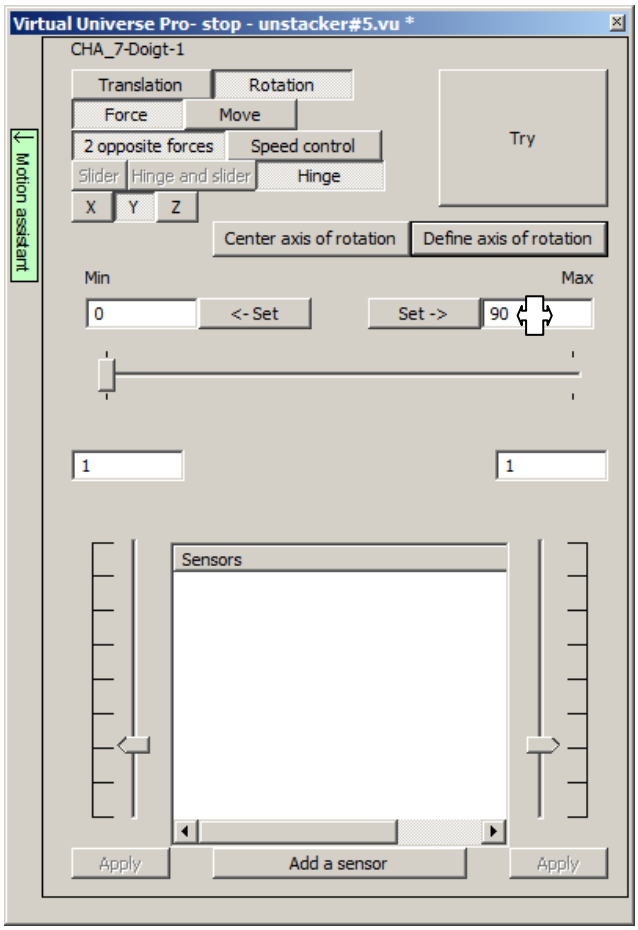
4.3.1.6.6- Setting the position of the axis of rotation



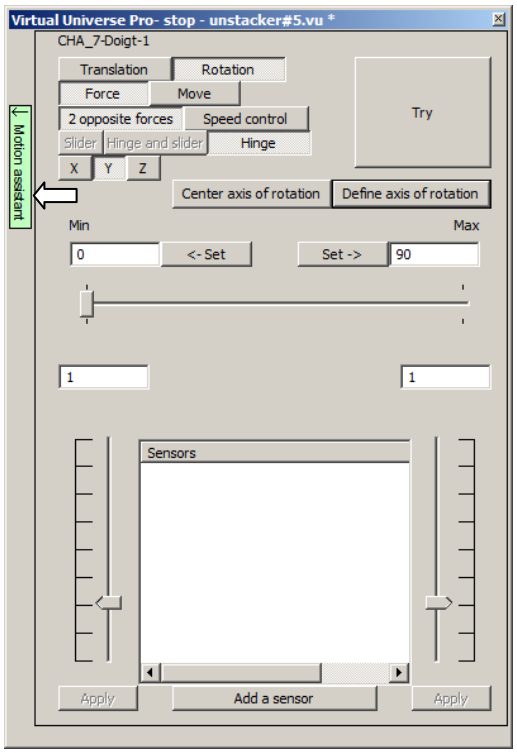




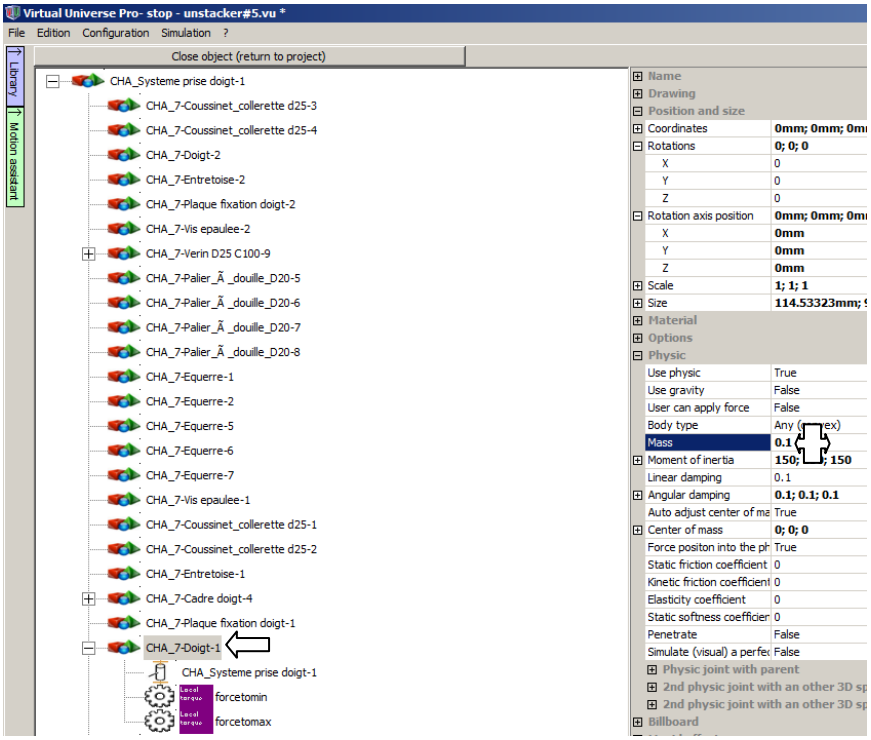
4.3.1.6.7- Setting the maximum rotation



4.3.1.6.8- Exit from the assistant

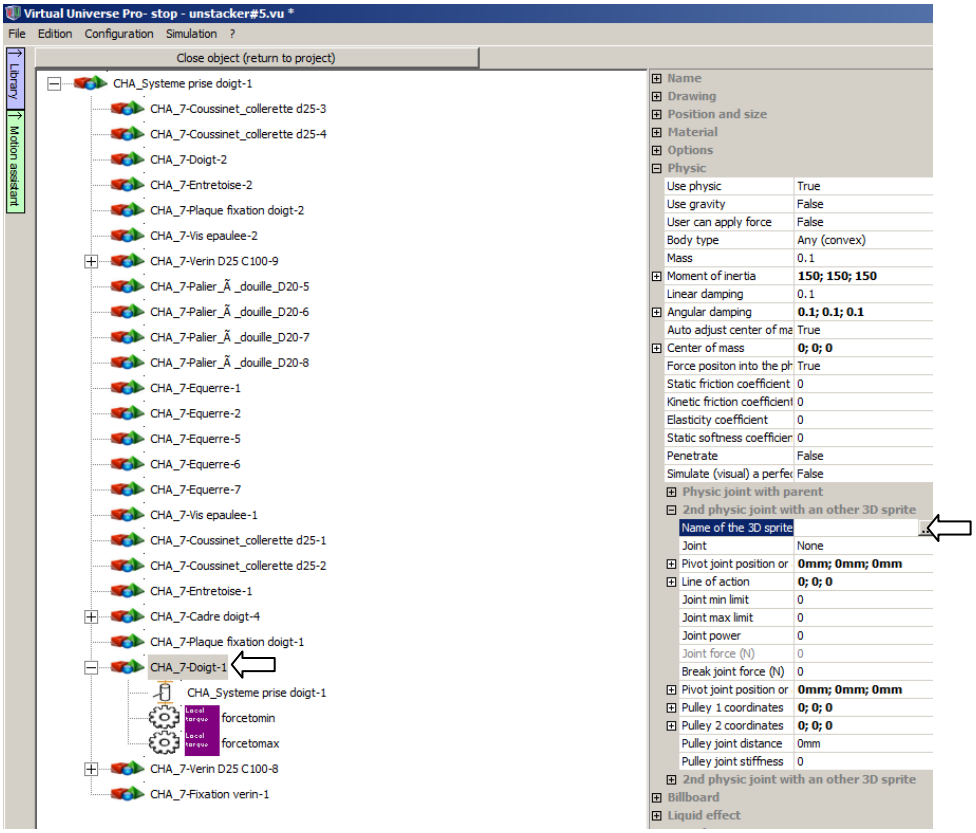


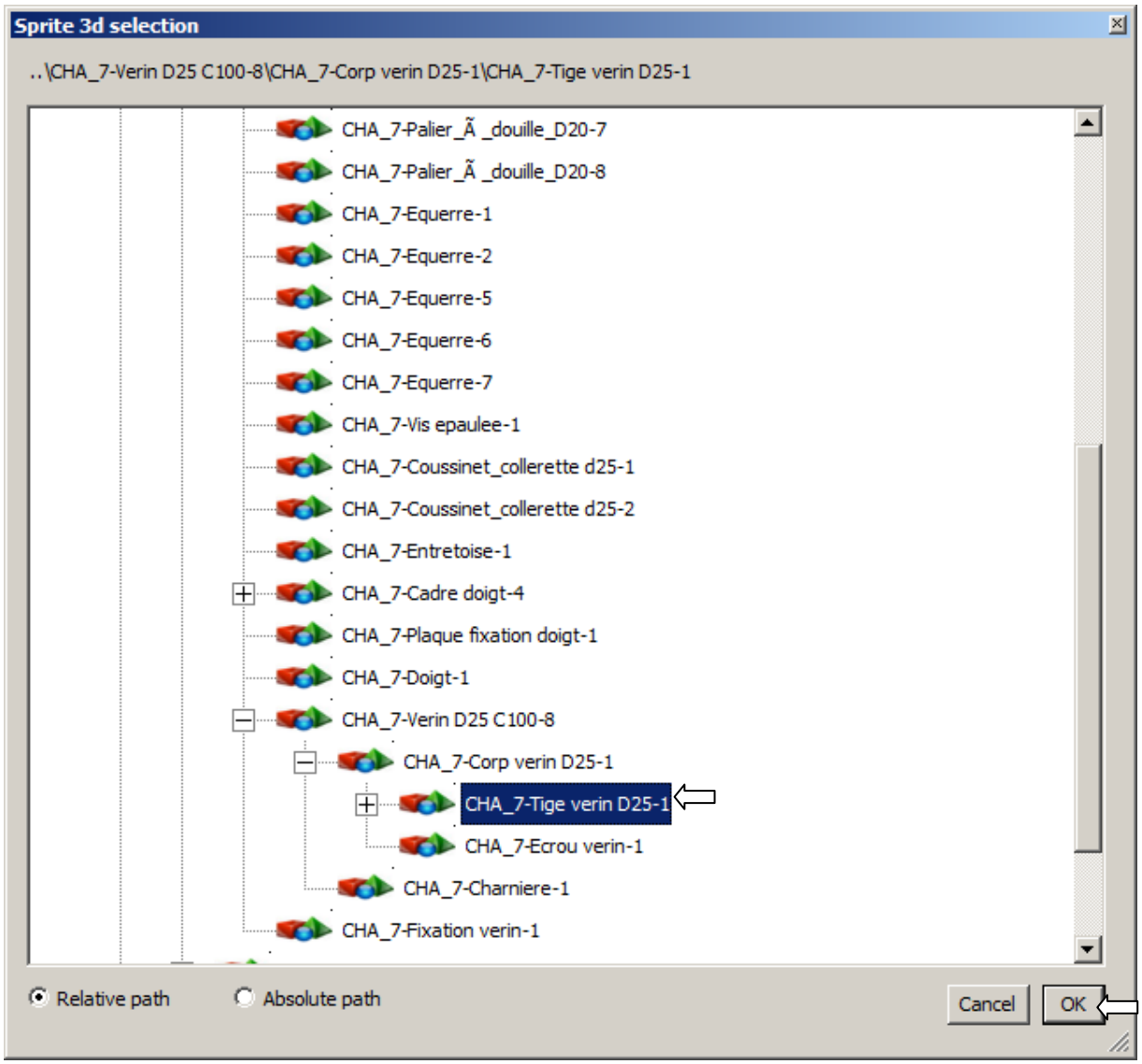
4.3.1.7- Setting the physical properties of the finger



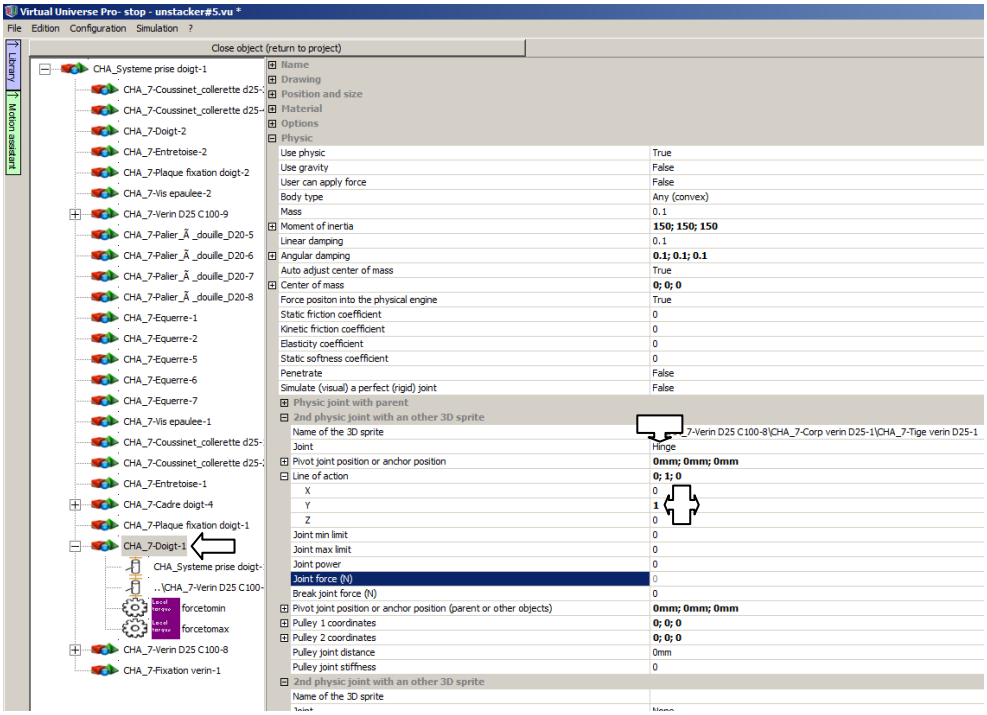
4.3.1.8- Setting the "finger / rod cylinder" link

4.3.1.8.1- Selection of the object that shares the link

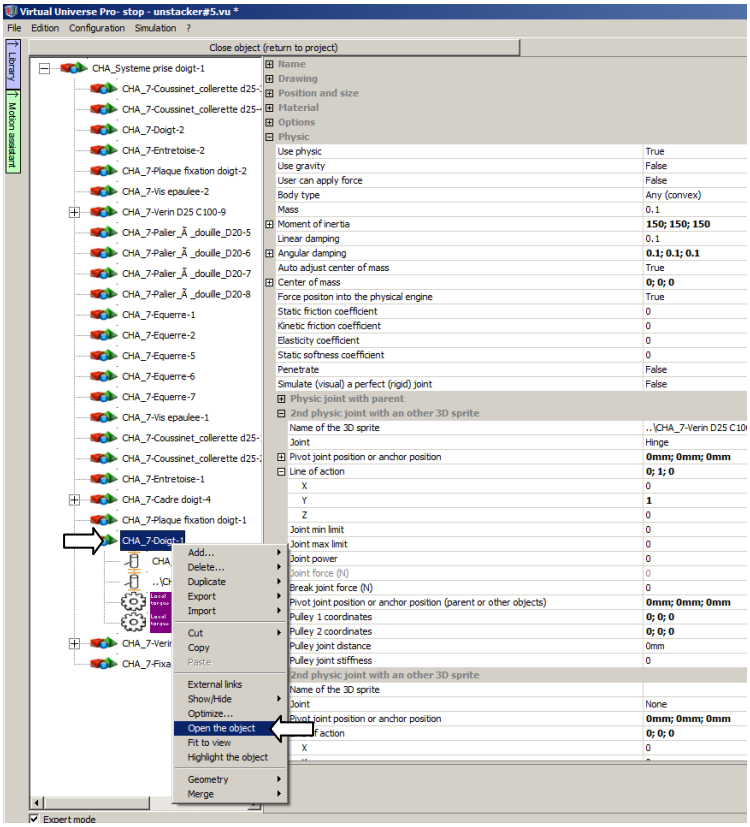


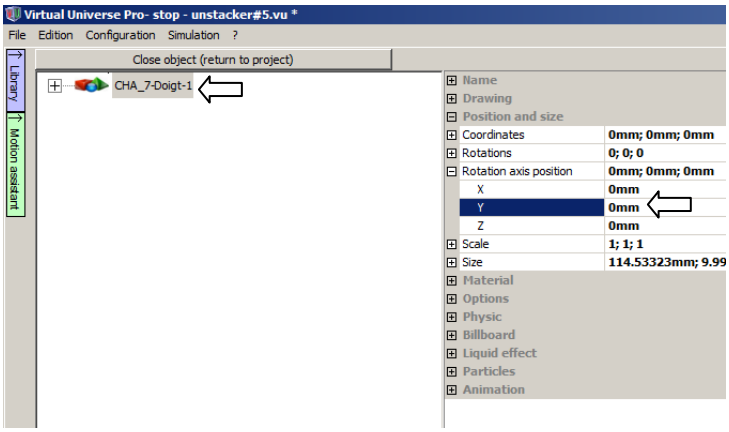

Sprite 3d selection
..\CHA_7-Verin D25 C100-8\CHA_7-Corp verin D25-1\CHA_7-Tige verin D25-1
CHA_7-Palier_Ã _douille_D20-7
CHA_7-Palier_Ã _douille_D20-8
CHA_7-Equerre-1
CHA_7-Equerre-2
CHA_7-Equerre-5
CHA_7-Equerre-6
CHA_7-Equerre-7
CHA_7-Vis epaulee-1
CHA_7-Coussinet_collerette d25-1
CHA_7-Coussinet_collerette d25-2
CHA_7-Entretoise-1
CHA_7-Cadre doigt-4
CHA_7-Plaque fixation doigt-1
CHA_7-Doigt-1
CHA_7-Verin D25 C100-8
CHA_7-Corp verin D25-1
CHA_7-Tige verin D25-1
CHA_7-Ecrou verin-1
CHA_7-Charniere-1
CHA_7-Fixation verin-1
Relative path
Absolute path
Cancel
OK

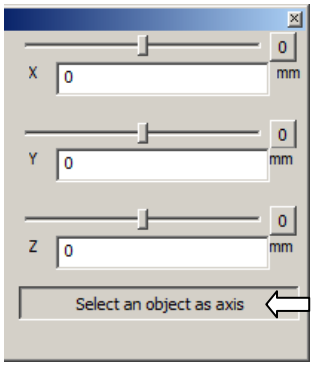
4.3.1.8.2- Configuring the link

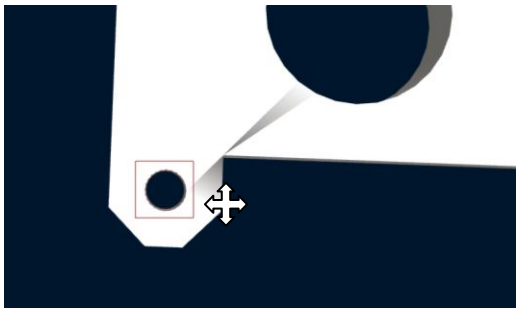


4.3.1.8.3- Definition of the axis of rotation

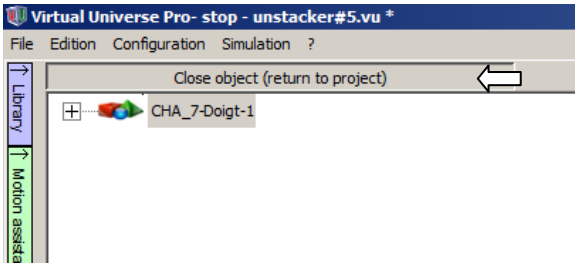








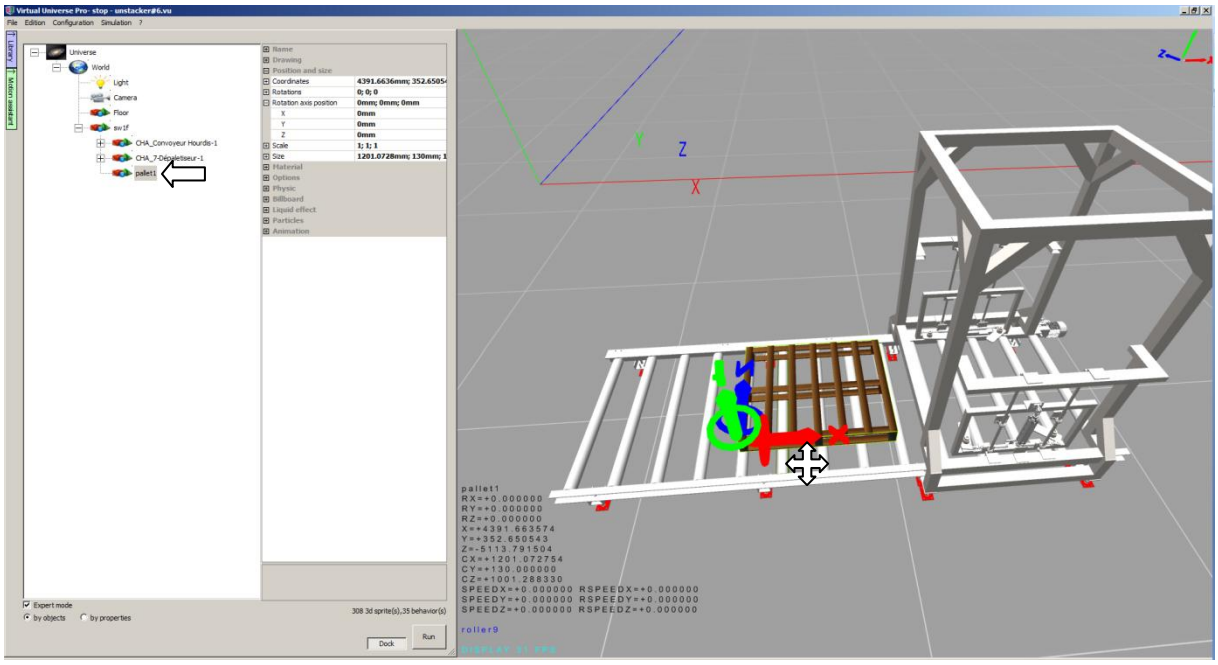
4.3.1.8.4- Closing of the object



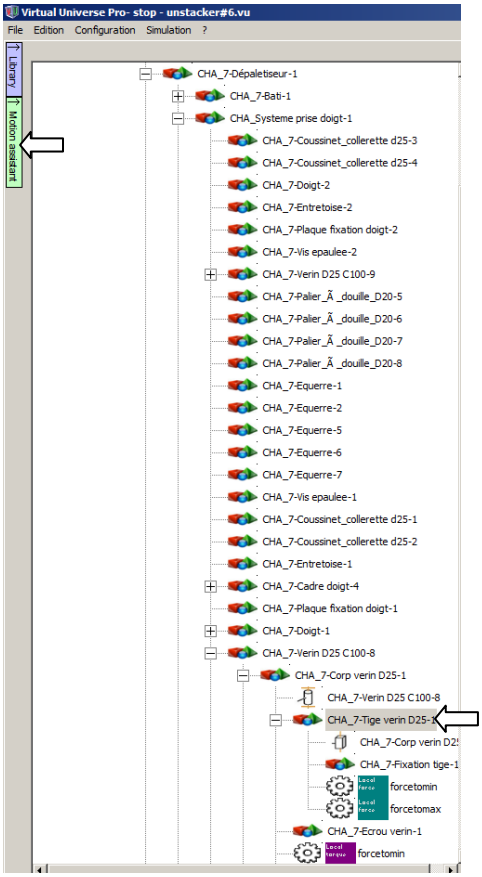
#6

4.3.1.9- Setting the forces to be applied to the actuator

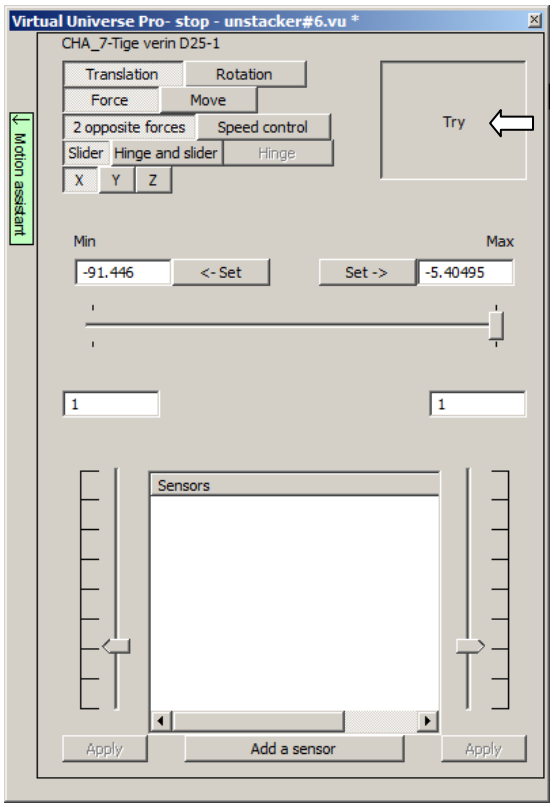
4.3.1.9.1- Move the pallet to avoid interferences



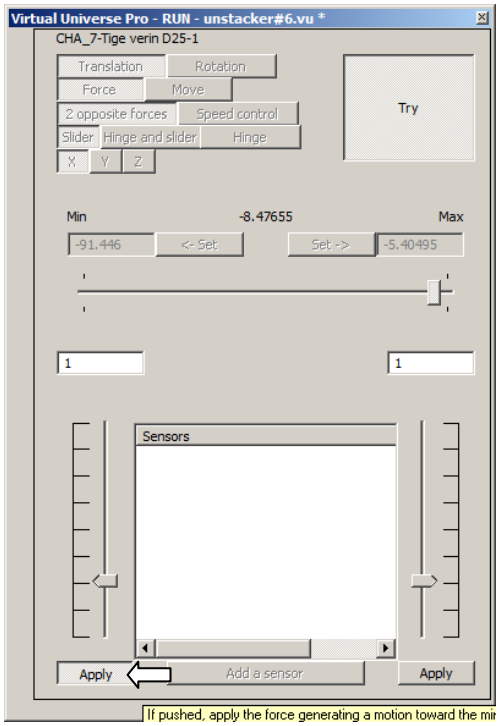
4.3.1.9.2- Reopening of the wizard to define the force for the cylinder



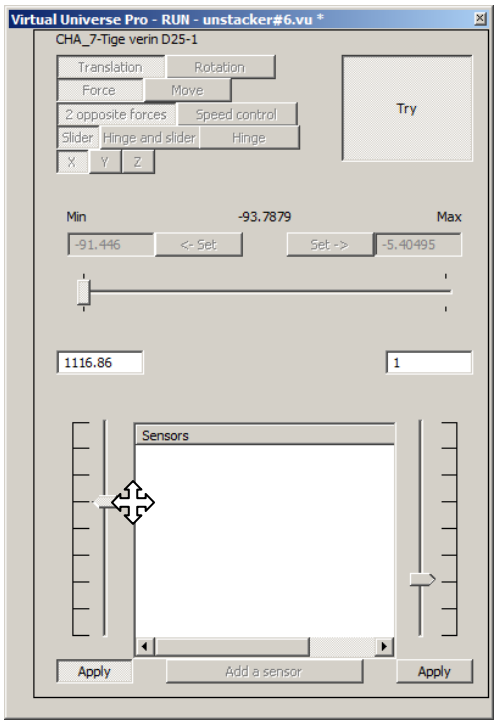
4.3.1.9.3- Switch to "try" mode



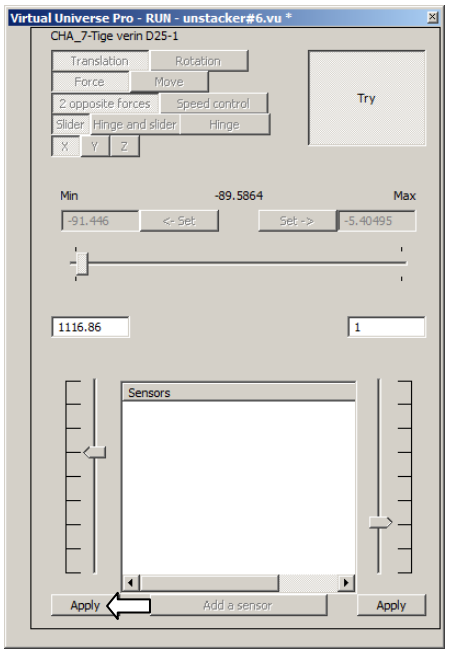
4.3.1.9.4- Activating the force for making the rod go out



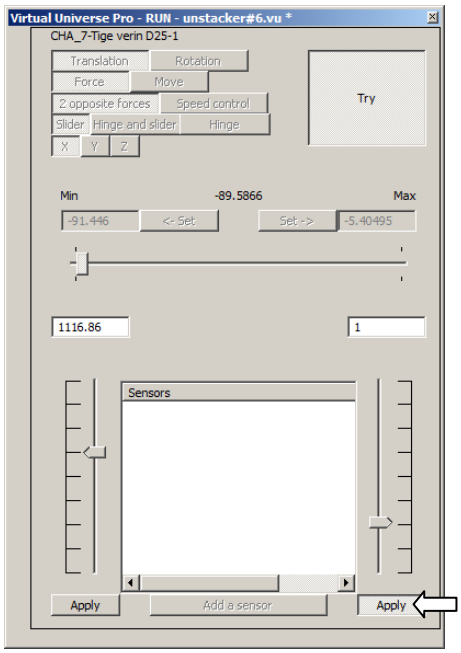
4.3.1.9.5- Defining the force for making the rod go out



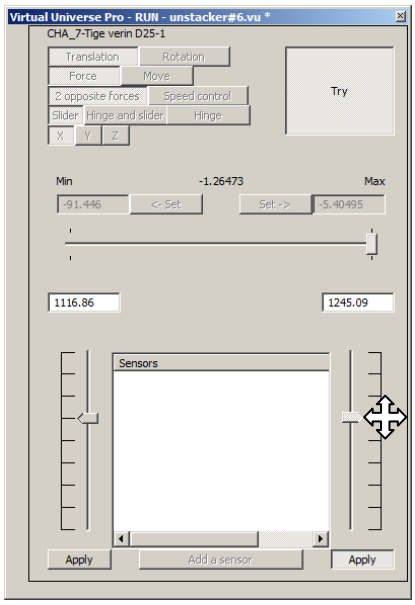
4.3.1.9.6- Disabling the force for making the rod go out



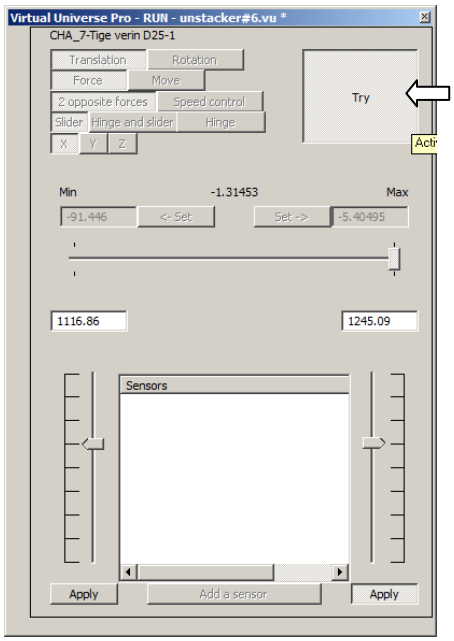
4.3.1.9.7- Activating the force for making the rod returning



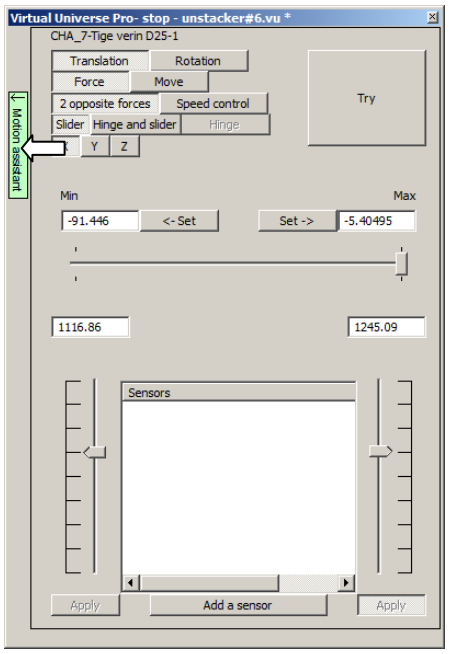
4.3.1.9.8- Defining the force for making the rod returning



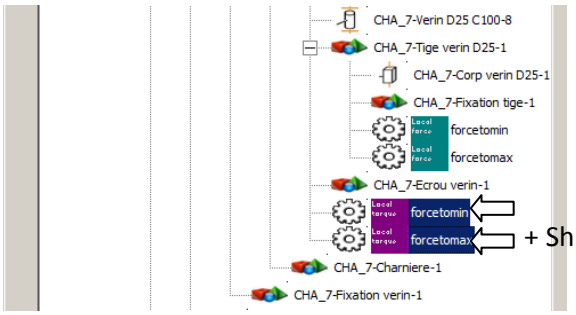
4.3.1.9.9- End of the "try" mode

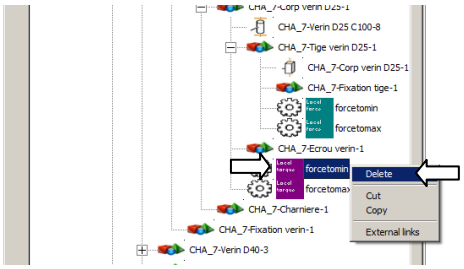


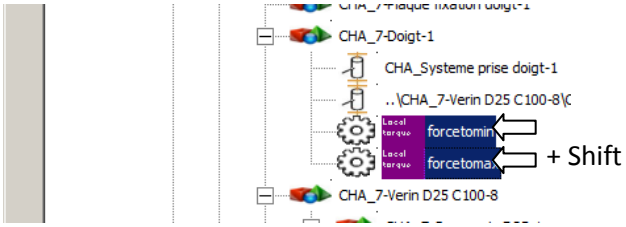
4.3.1.9.10- Exit from the wizard

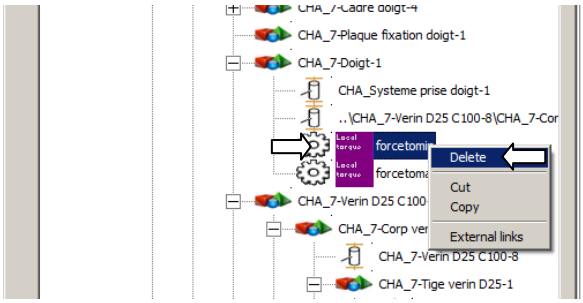


4.3.1.9.11- Deleting unused behaviors



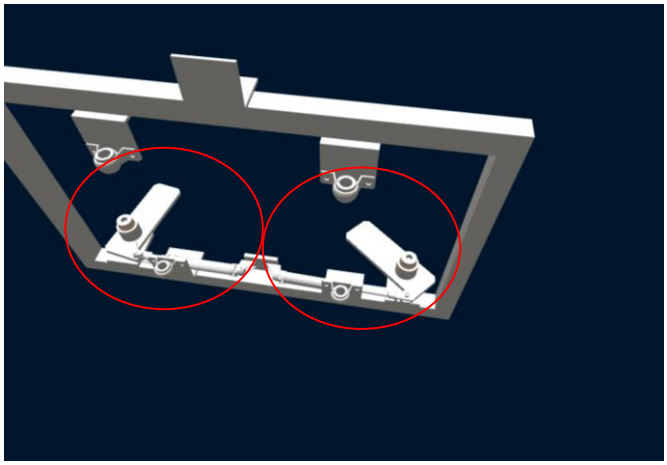




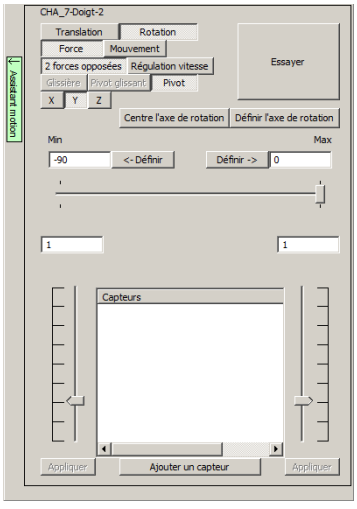


#7

4.4- Setting the opposite finger



The setting is identical to the first finger. The maximum angle of rotation of the finger (4.3.1.6.7) parameter is reversed (-90 instead of 90):

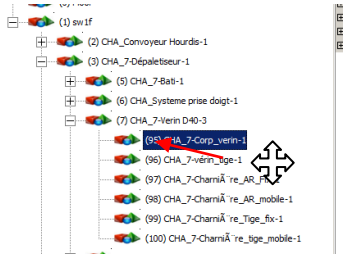


#8

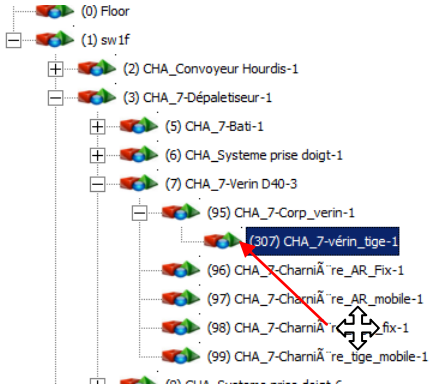
4.5- Setting the movement up / down

4.5.1- Reorganization of the structure

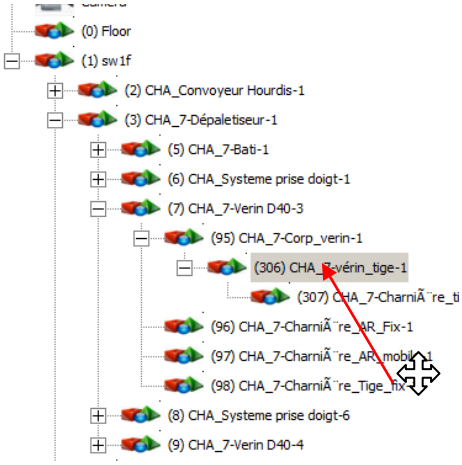
4.5.1.1- Make the rod child of the cylinder body



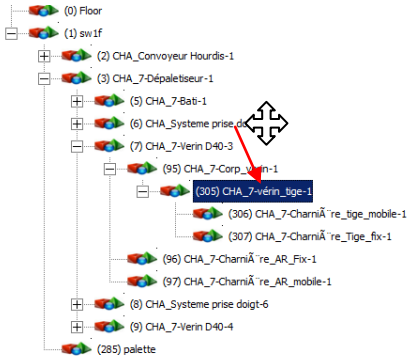
4.5.1.2- Make the rod hinge child of the rod



4.5.1.3- Make the fixed rod hinge child of the rod

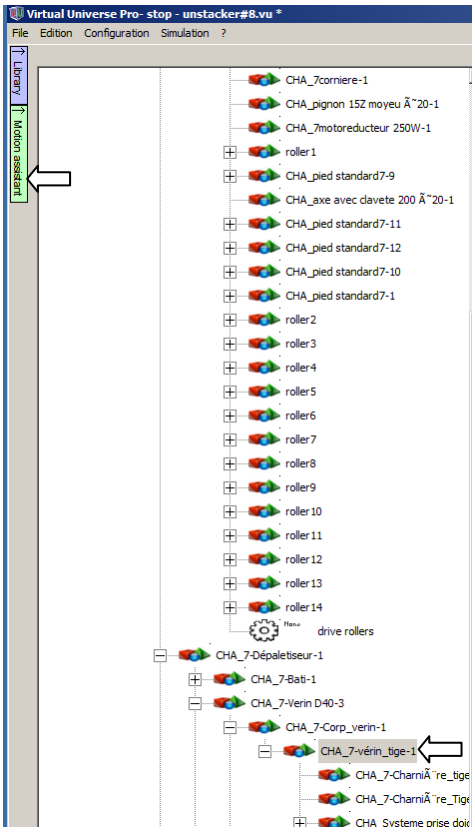


4.5.1.4- Make the finger taking ststem child of the rod

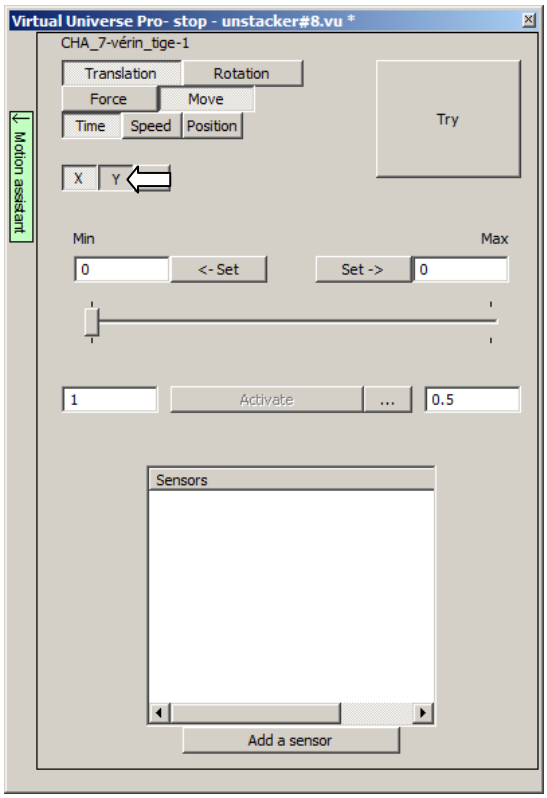


4.5.2- Define the move

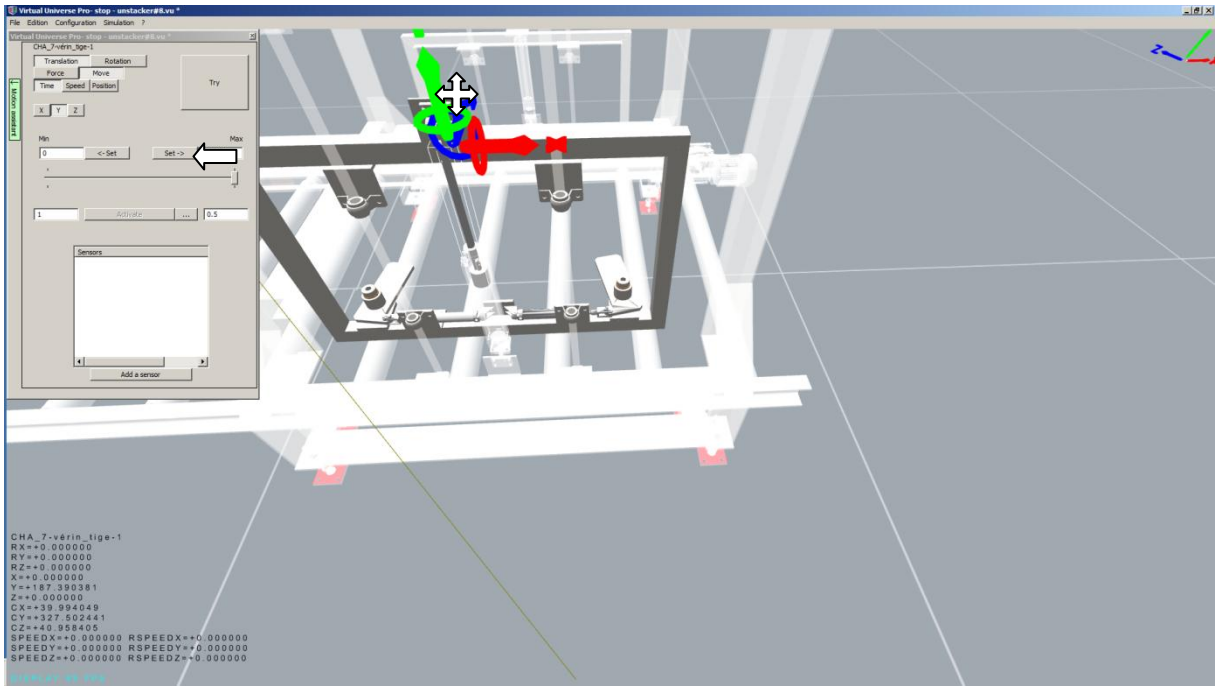
4.5.2.1- Open the wizard



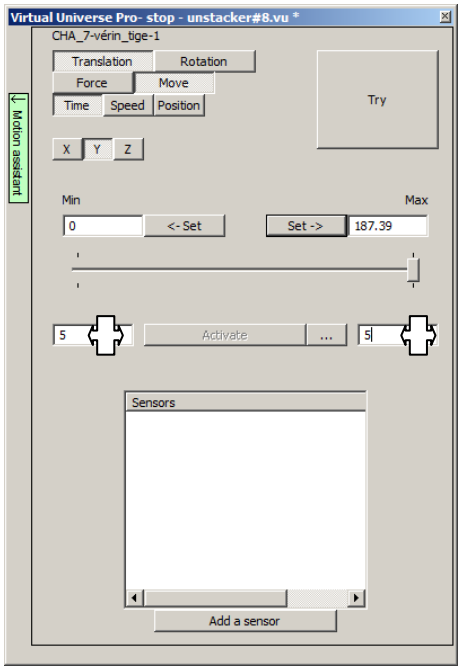
4.5.2.2- Define the axis



4.5.2.3- Define up position

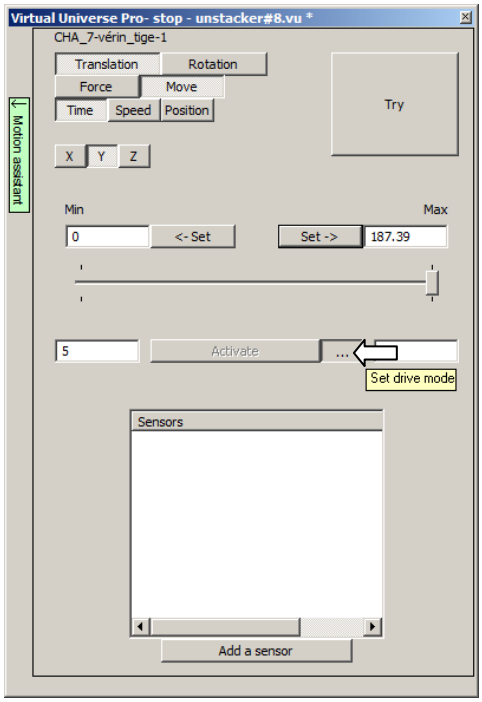


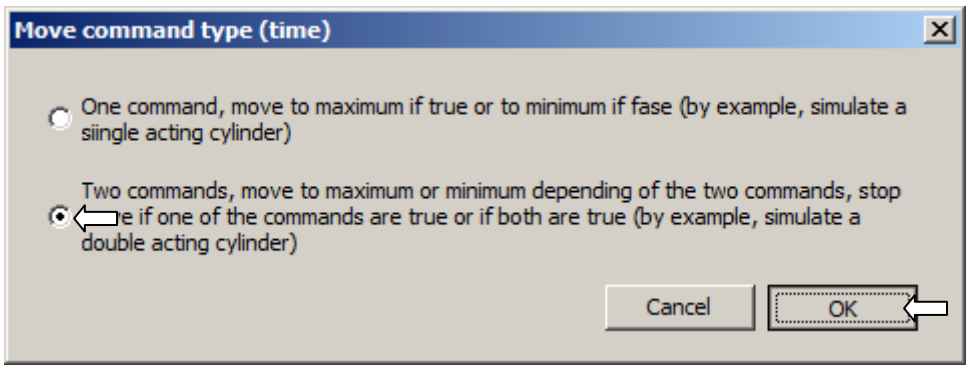
4.5.2.4- Define times for move



4.5.2.5- Define a bistable move mode

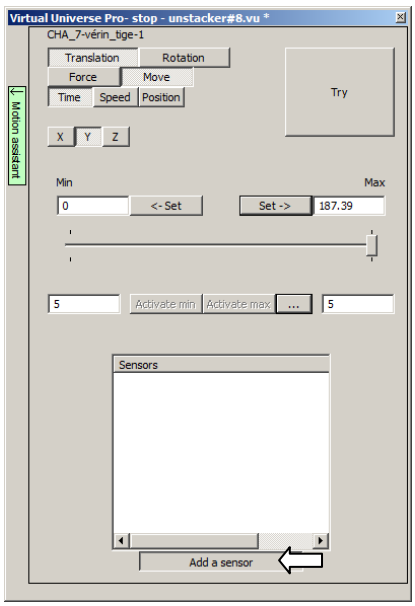
The rise and fall of the subset must be stopped at an intermediate position (position where fingers can get among the palette).



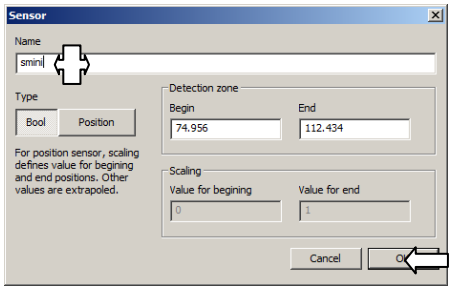


4.5.2.6- Set a mini sensor

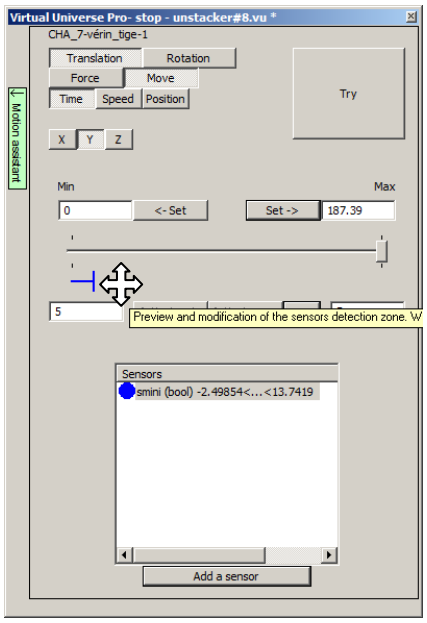
4.5.2.6.1- Add a sensor



4.5.2.6.2- Identify the sensor



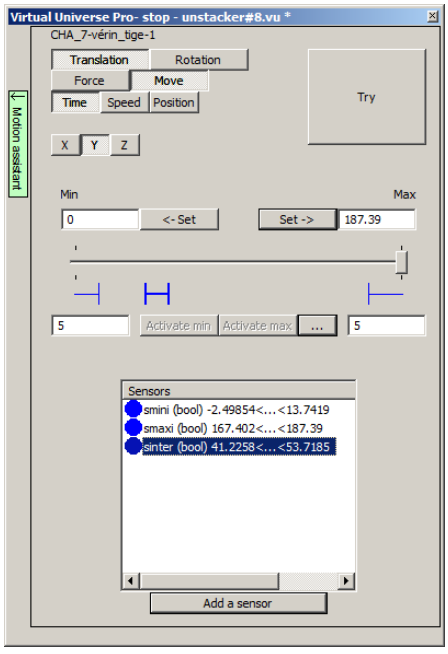
4.5.2.6.3- Visually define the detection range



Gripping and moving each end of the detection zone (blue lines).

4.5.2.7- Define the maximum sensor and a position sensor for the intermediate position

Similarly (4.5.2.6.1 4.5.2.6.3 to) a sensor is created for the maximum position and a sensor for the intermediate position (the exit of the fingers must be possible inside the pallet).

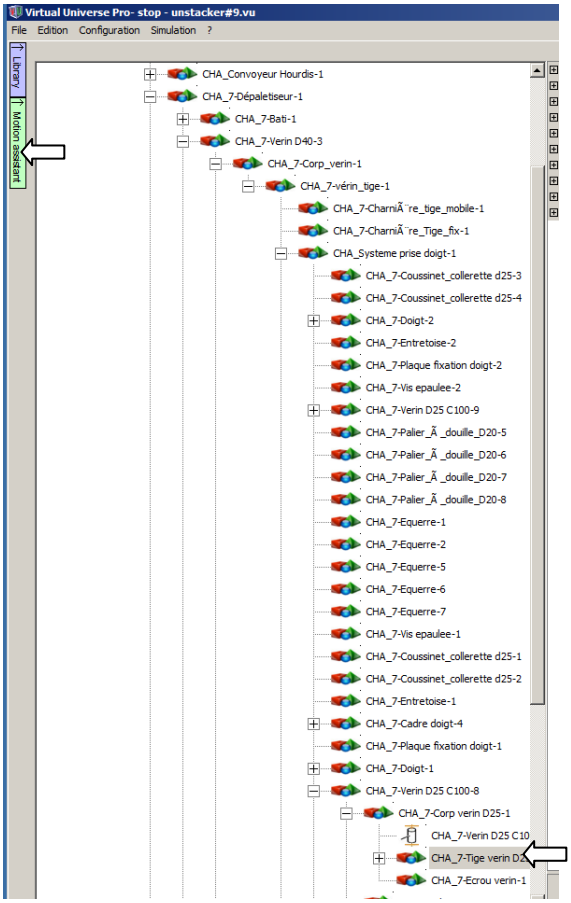


The "try" mode can be used to test this.

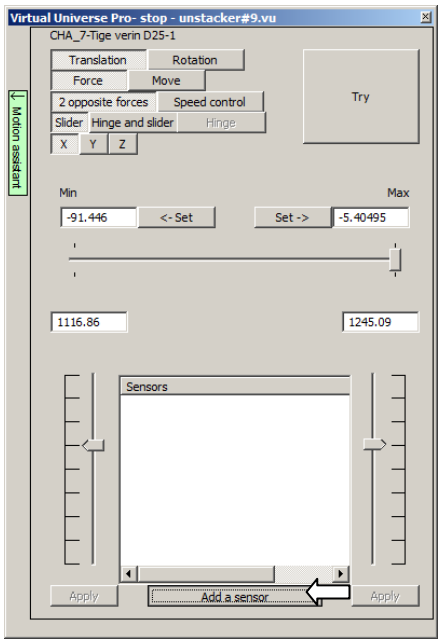
#9

4.6- Adding sensors to fingers actuators

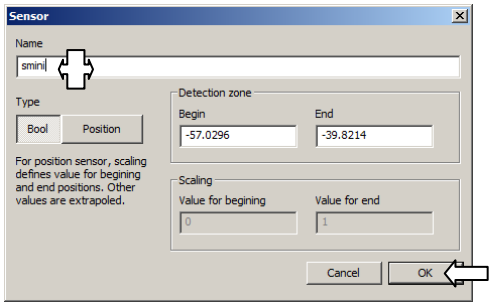
4.6.1- Reopening of the wizard for the cylinder rod



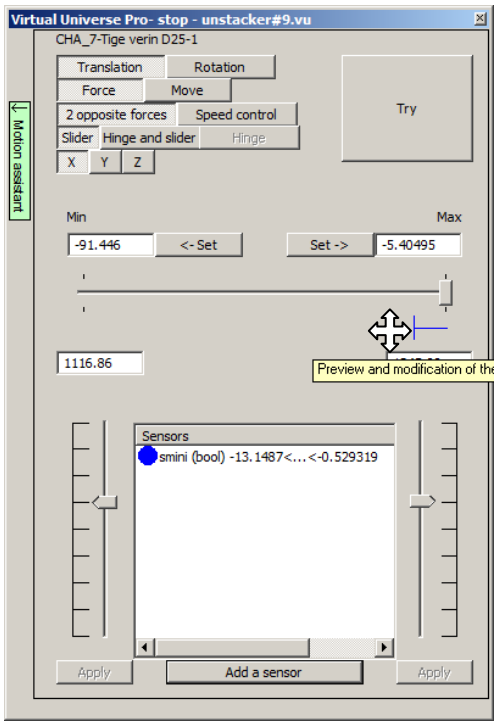
4.6.1.1- Add a sensor



4.6.1.2- Identify it

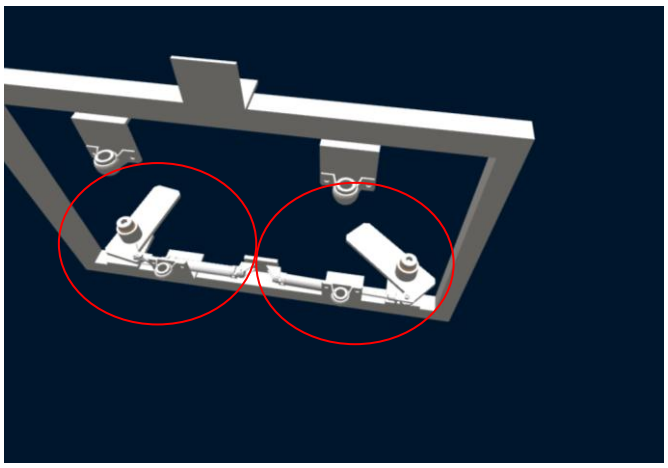


4.6.1.3- Definition of the detection zone



4.6.2- Creation of other sensors on the actuators associated with fingers

In the same way, create the maximum sensor for the same cylinder and the minimum and maximum sensors for actuator of the opposite finger.

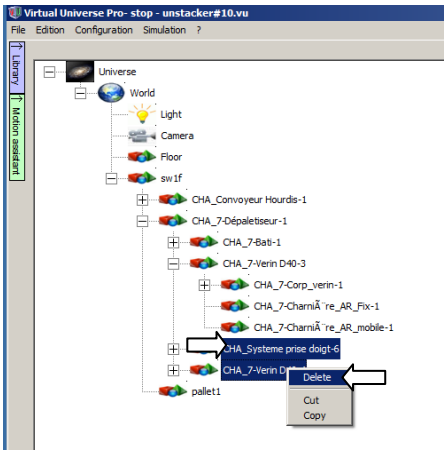


#10

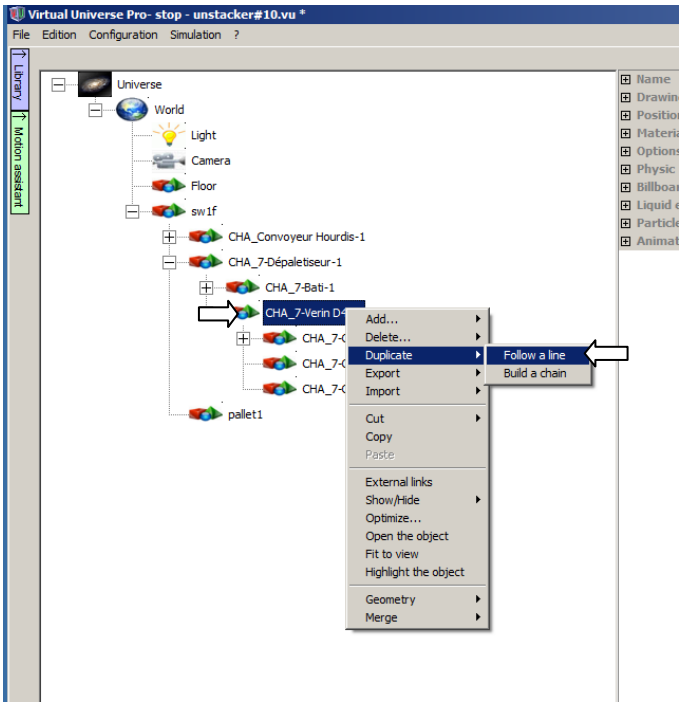
4.7- Duplication of the subsystem up / down and fingers

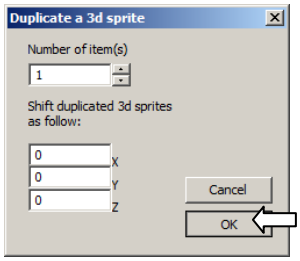
The subset being the same, we shall replace the subset not set by a copy of the subset set.

4.7.1- Removal of the subassembly not set

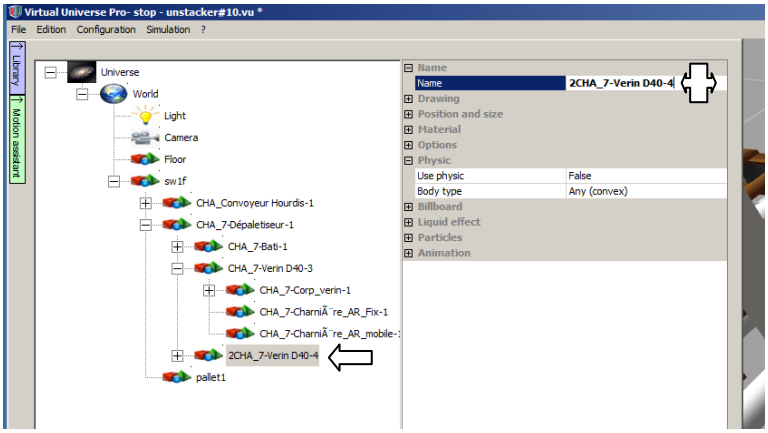


4.7.2- Duplication subset set

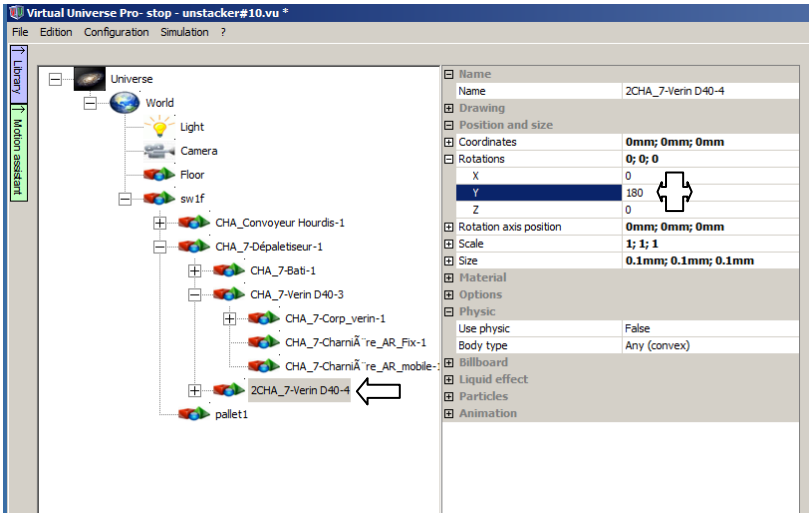




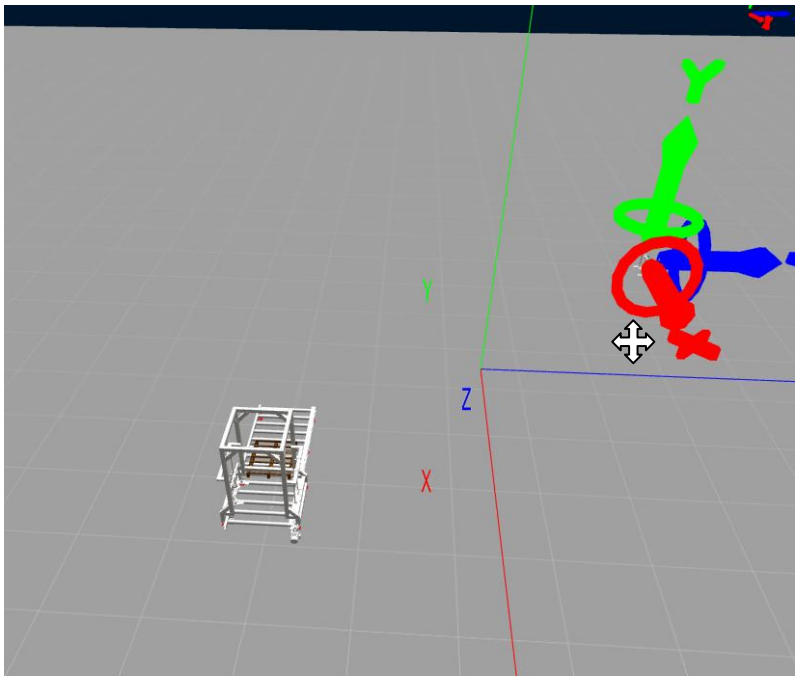
4.7.3- Rename the new subset



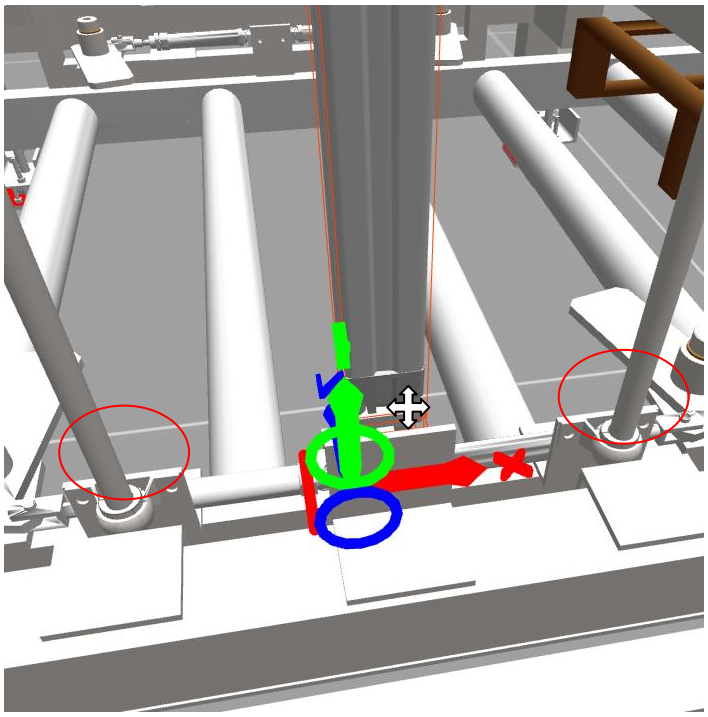
4.7.4- Rotate 180 degrees the duplicated subset



4.7.5- Set the position of the duplicated subset



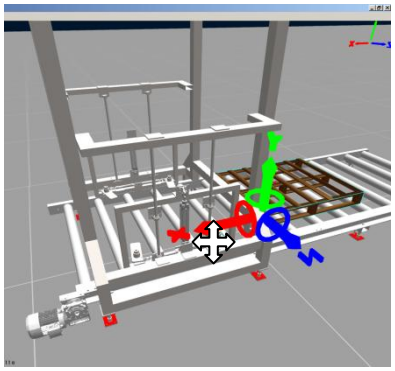
Move the red and blue arrows to return the subset near the unstacker.

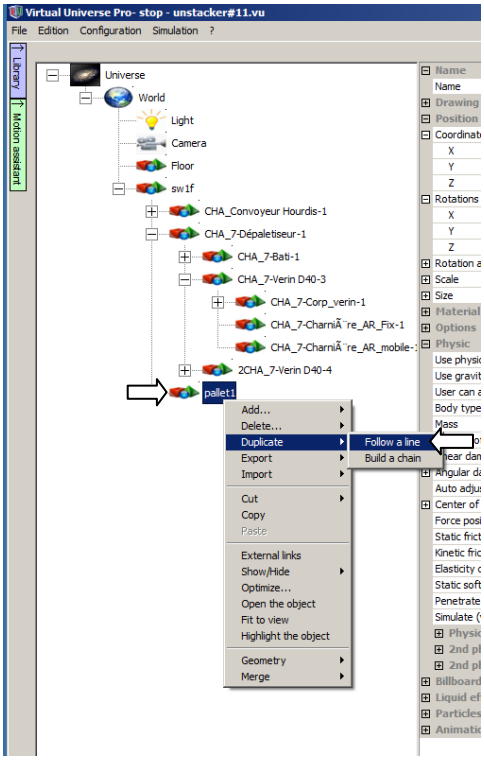


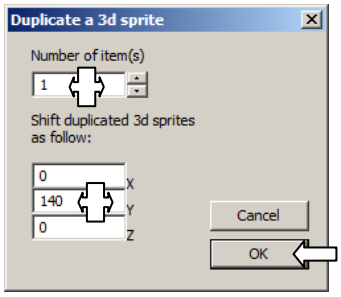
Refine placement, the visual cue of vertical rods can help to do this.

#11

4.8- Setting up the pallet and duplication







#12

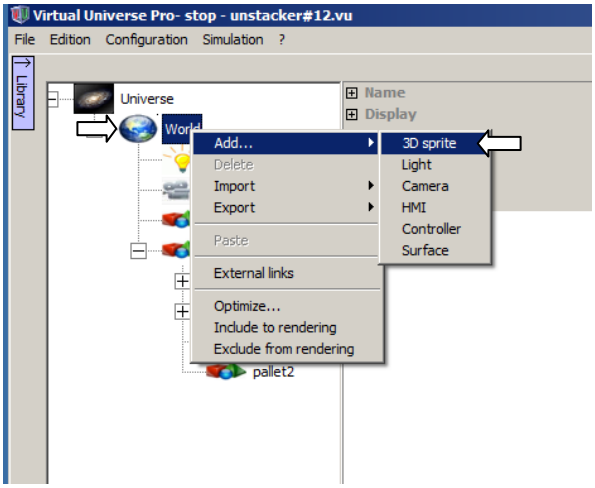
We go from here develop three variants of the project, the first (A) with HMI elements to test the machine, the second (B) using a virtual controller to control the machine, and the third (C) using a M340 Schneider Electric to achieve control.

A4.9- Control via HMI elements

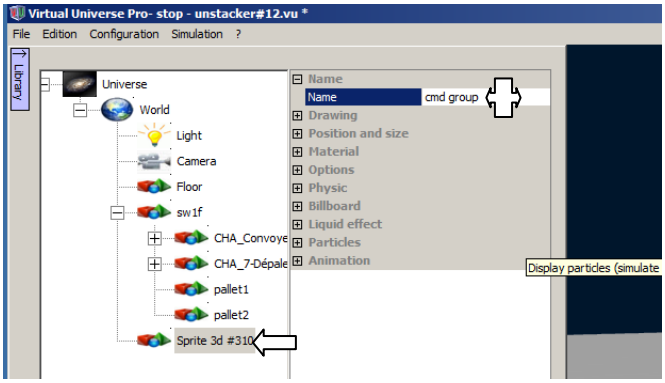
A4.9.1- Creation of variables grouped orders

The goal is to create a single variable to exit all fingers, one for return, one for the vertical cylinders out and one for return.

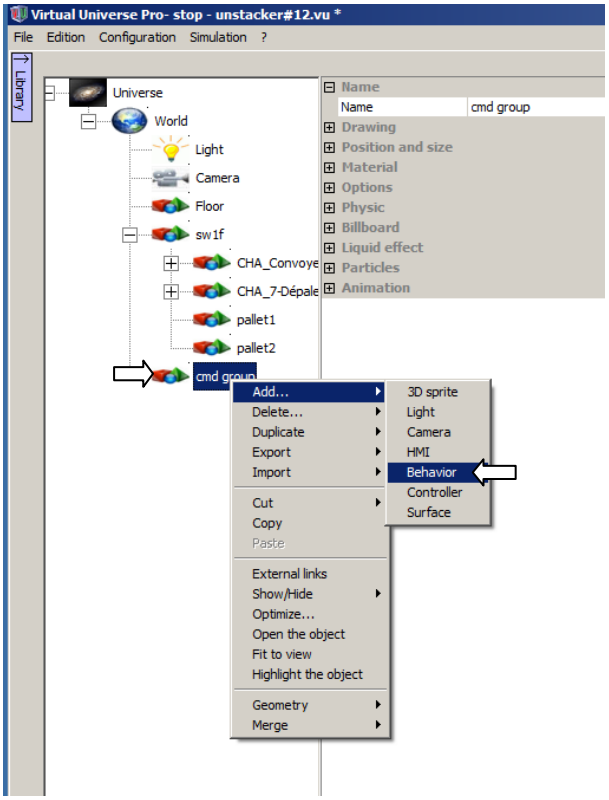
A4.9.1.1- Add a group

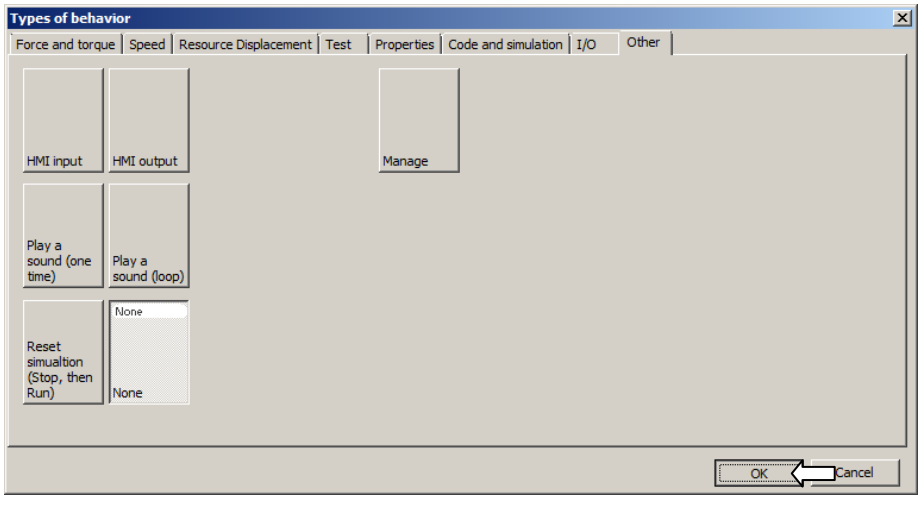


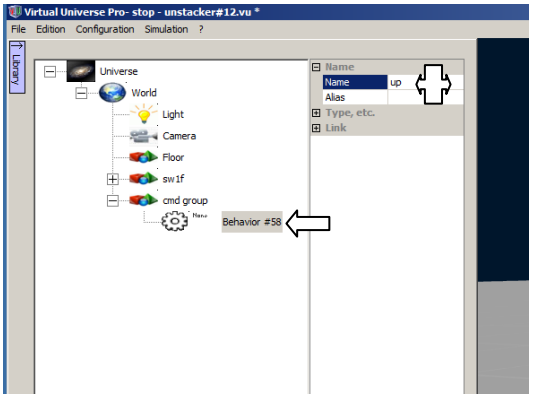
Objects "3d sprites" can also serve as structural elements



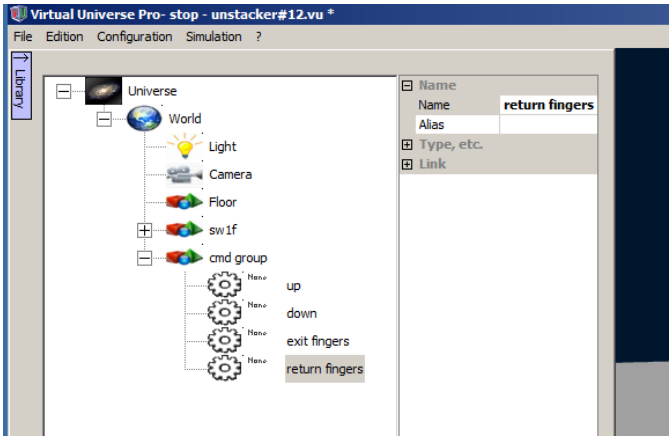
A4.9.1.2- Add behaviors





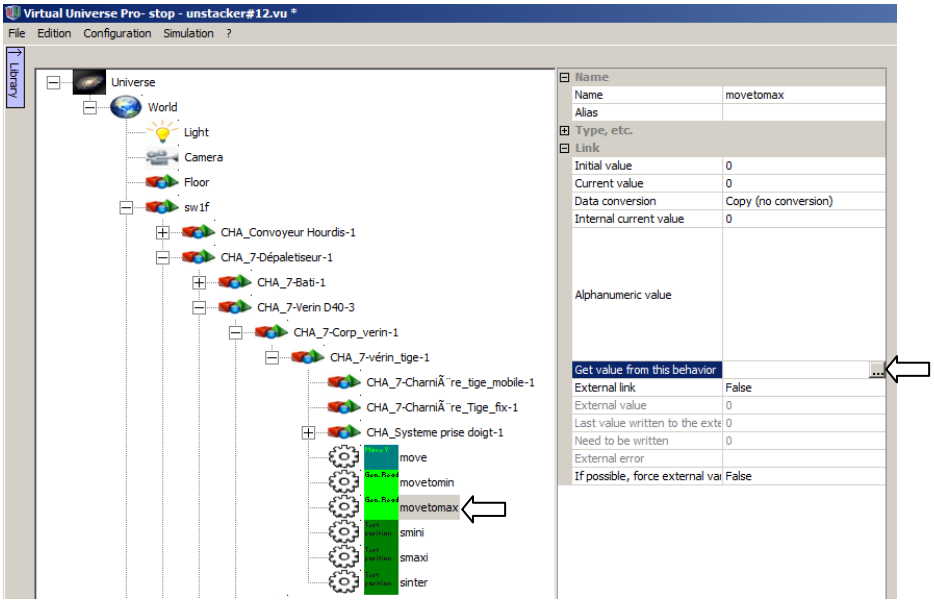


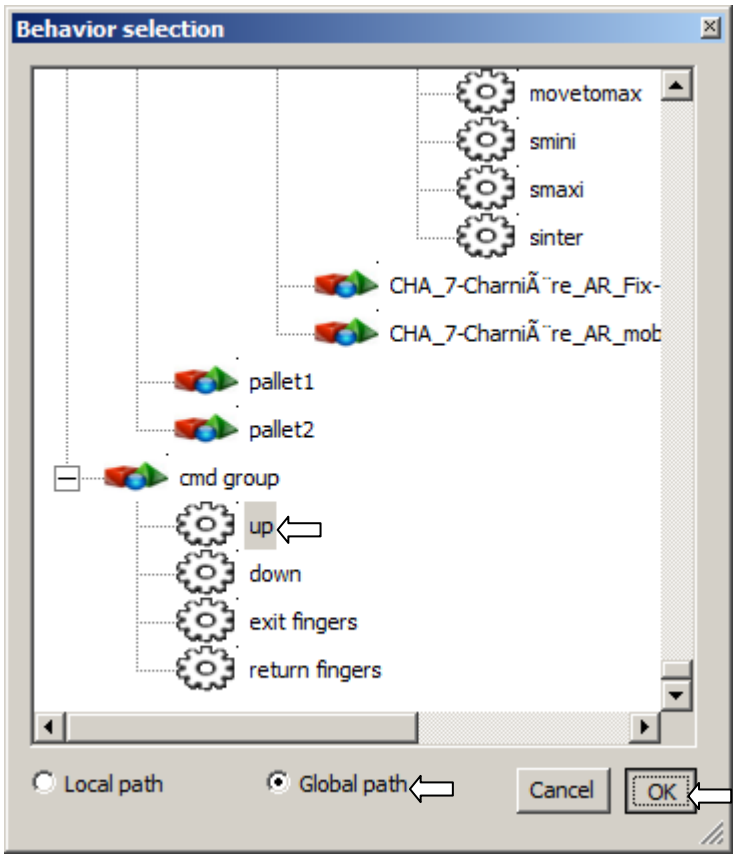
We create the other behaviors in the same way.



A4.9.1.2- Create the links

A4.9.1.3.1- Vertical cylinders

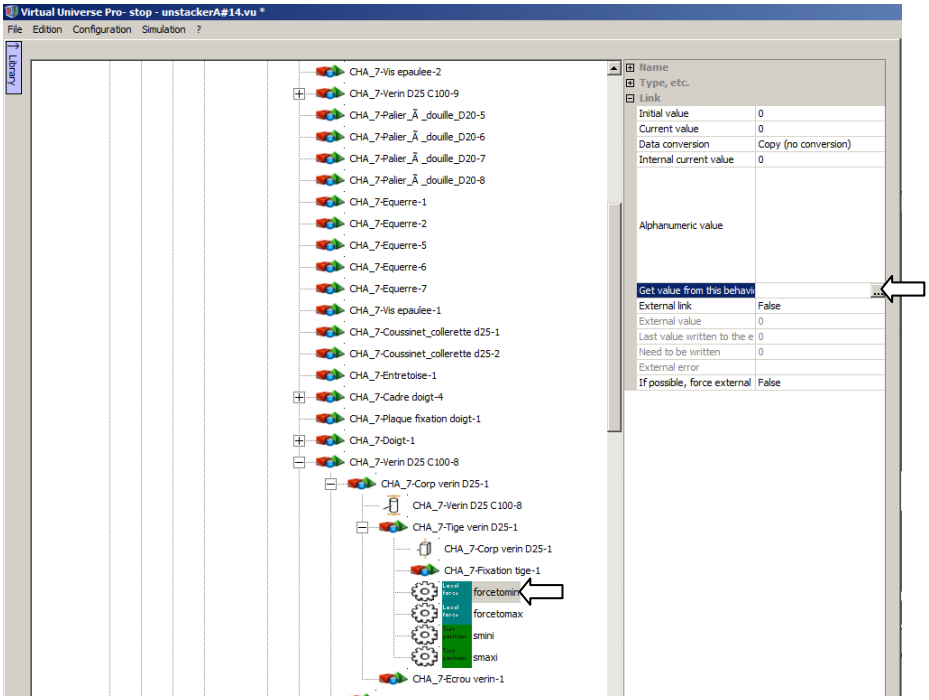


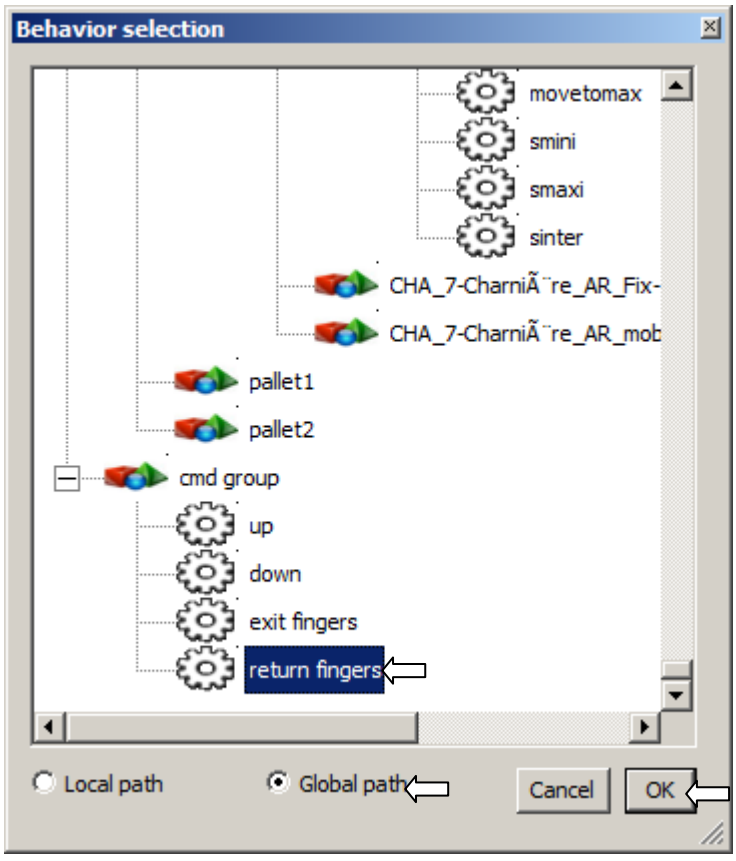


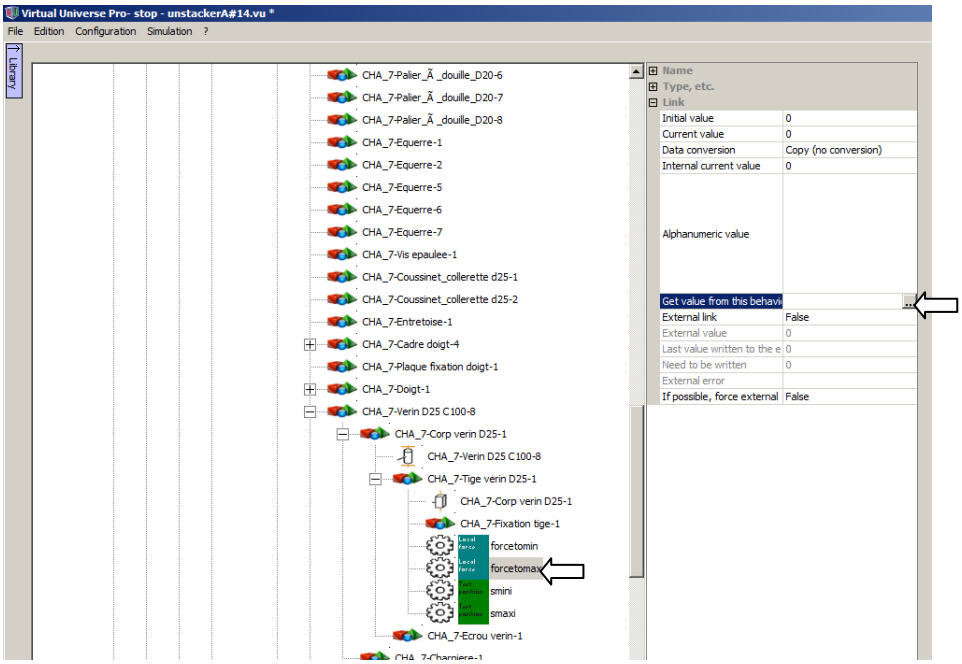
We do the same for down move and up and down moves of the other vertical cylinder.

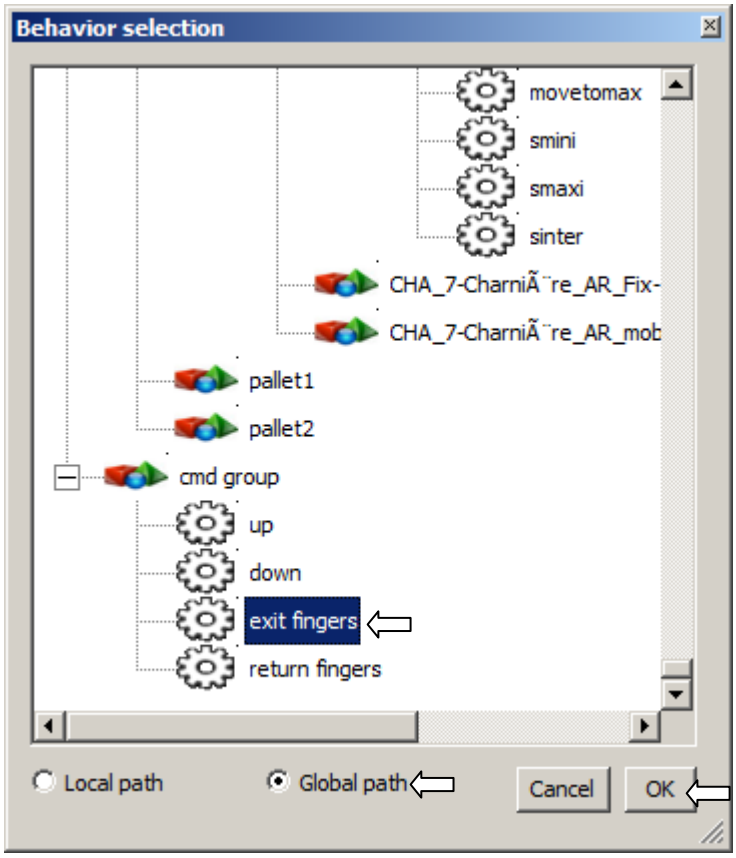
A#13

A4.9.1.3.2- Cylinders associated to the fingers







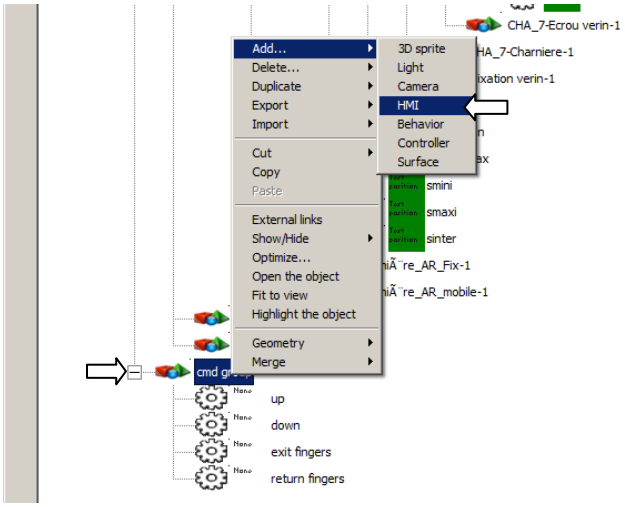


Repeat for the other three fingers. Warning, the link forcemin / forcemax with in / out fingers must be reversed for two of the four fingers (symmetrical cylinders).

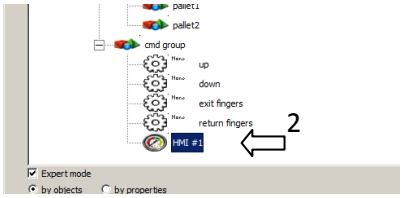
A#14

A4.9.2- Create HMI

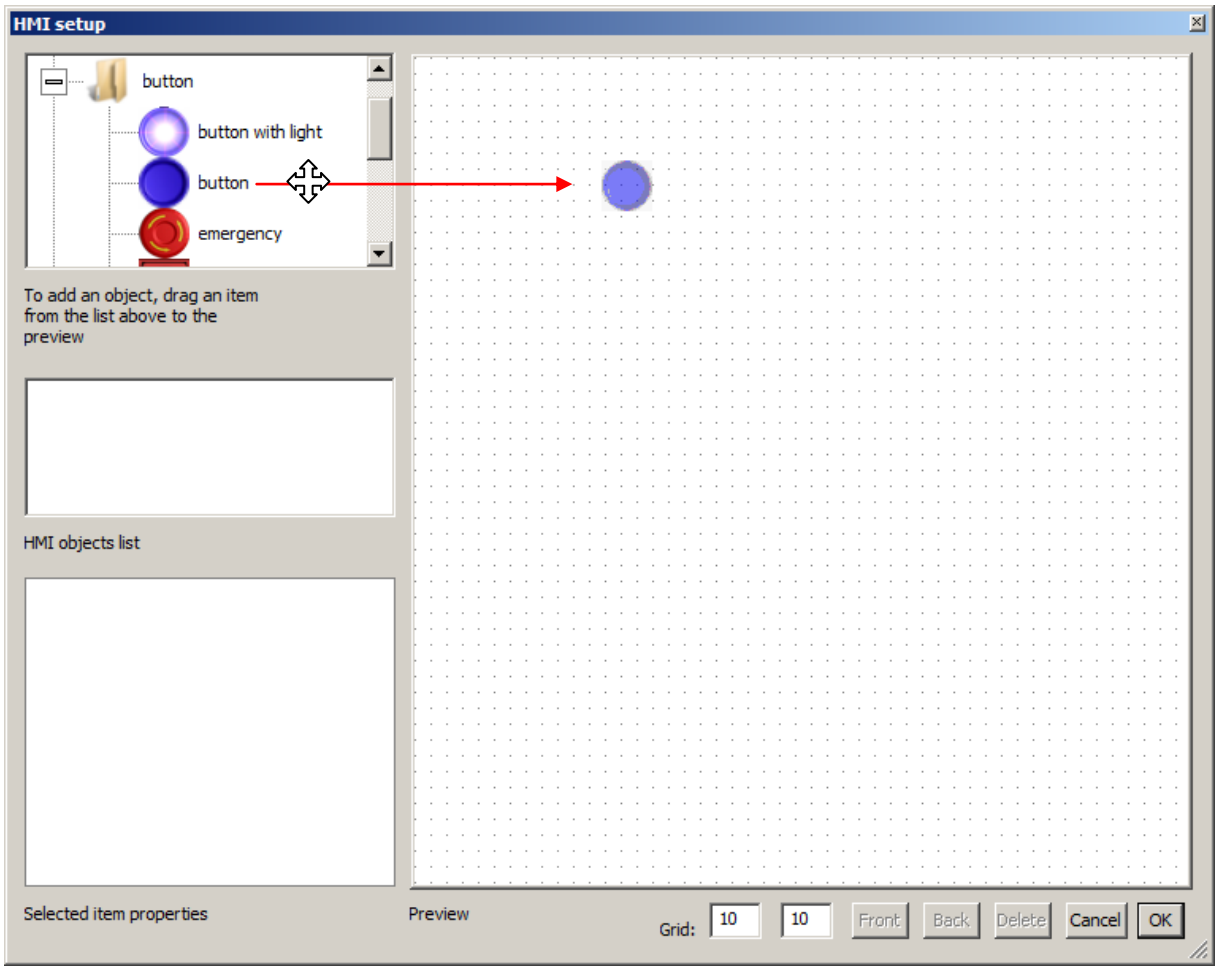
A4.9.2.1- Add



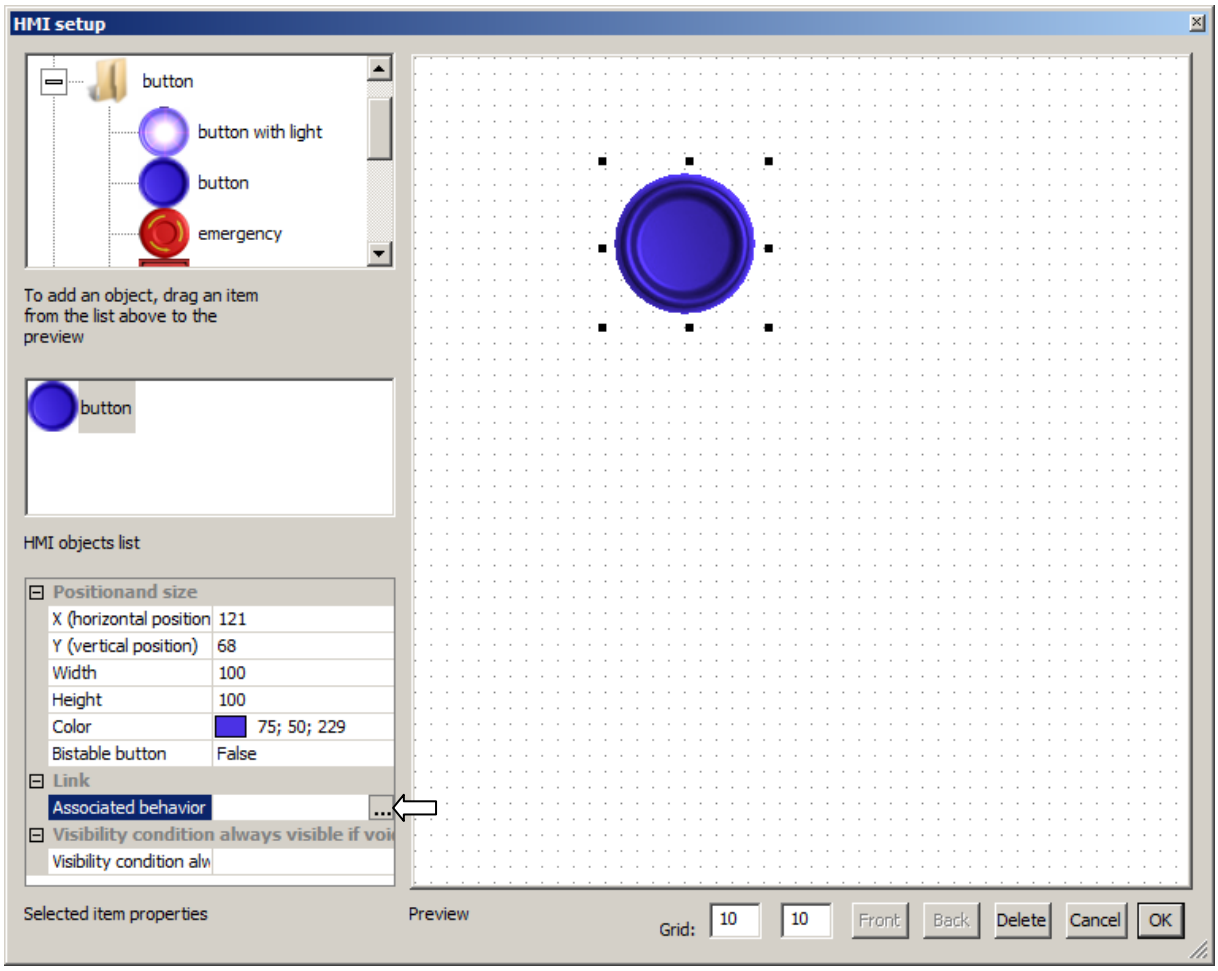
A4.9.2.2- Modification

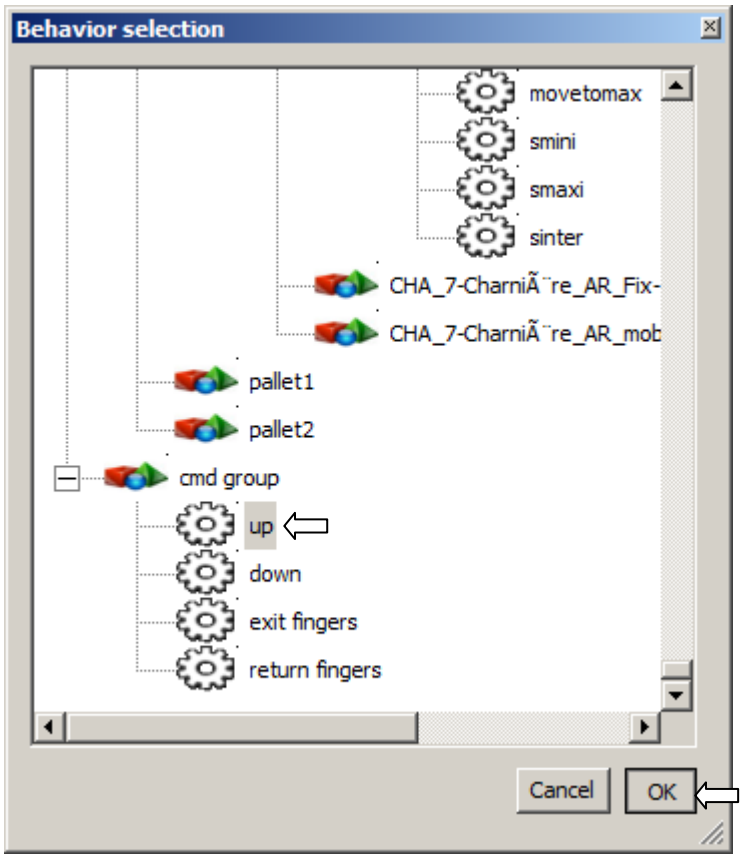


A4.9.2.3- Add a button

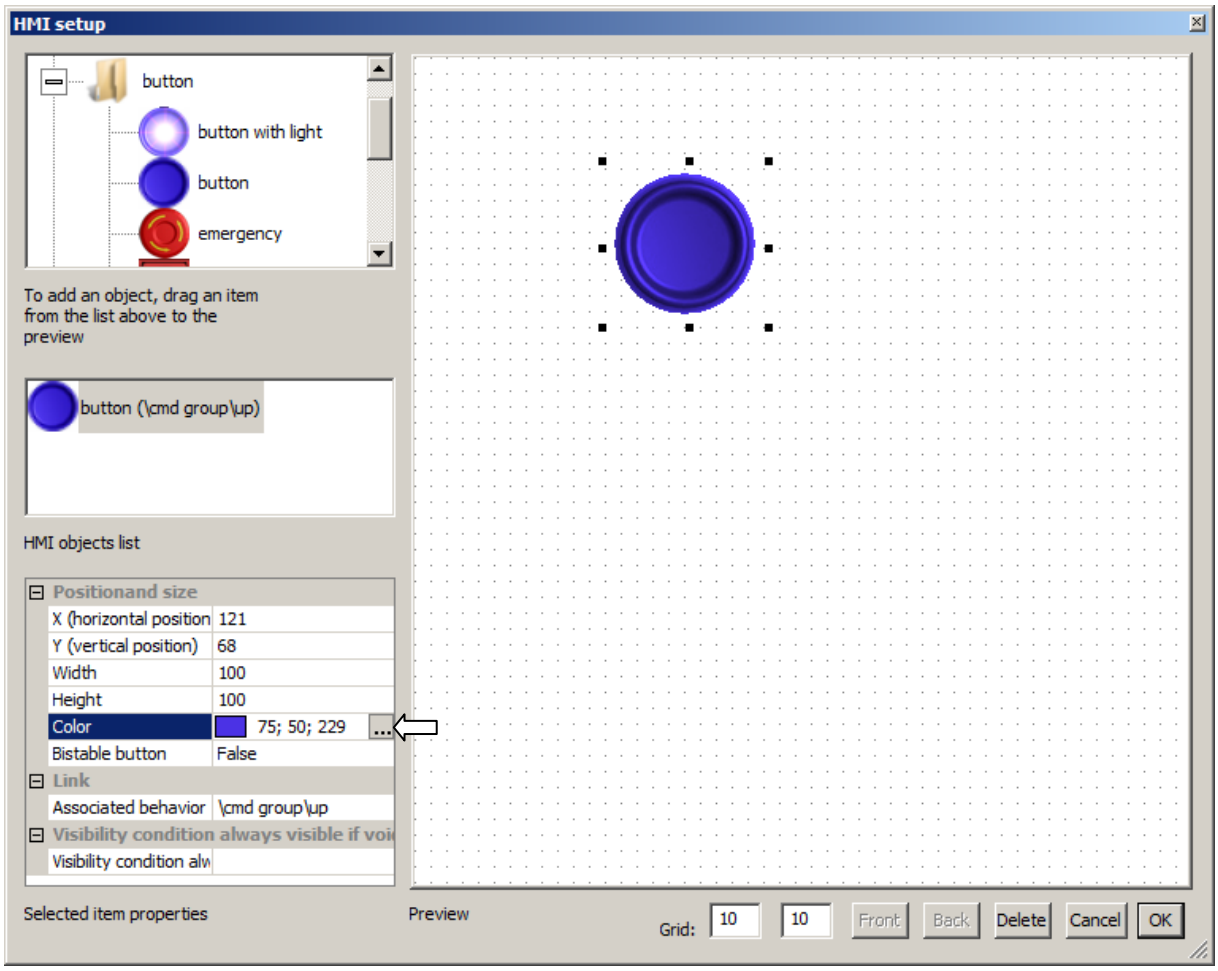


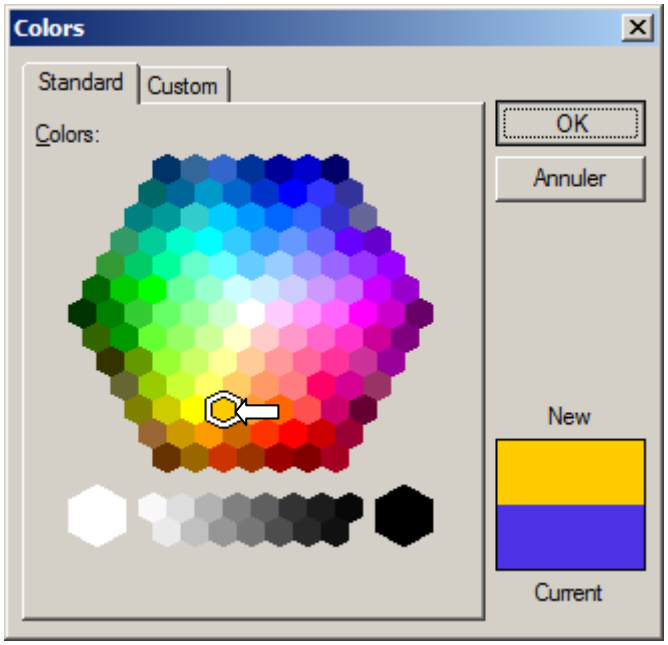
A4.9.2.4- Associate a button to the behavior



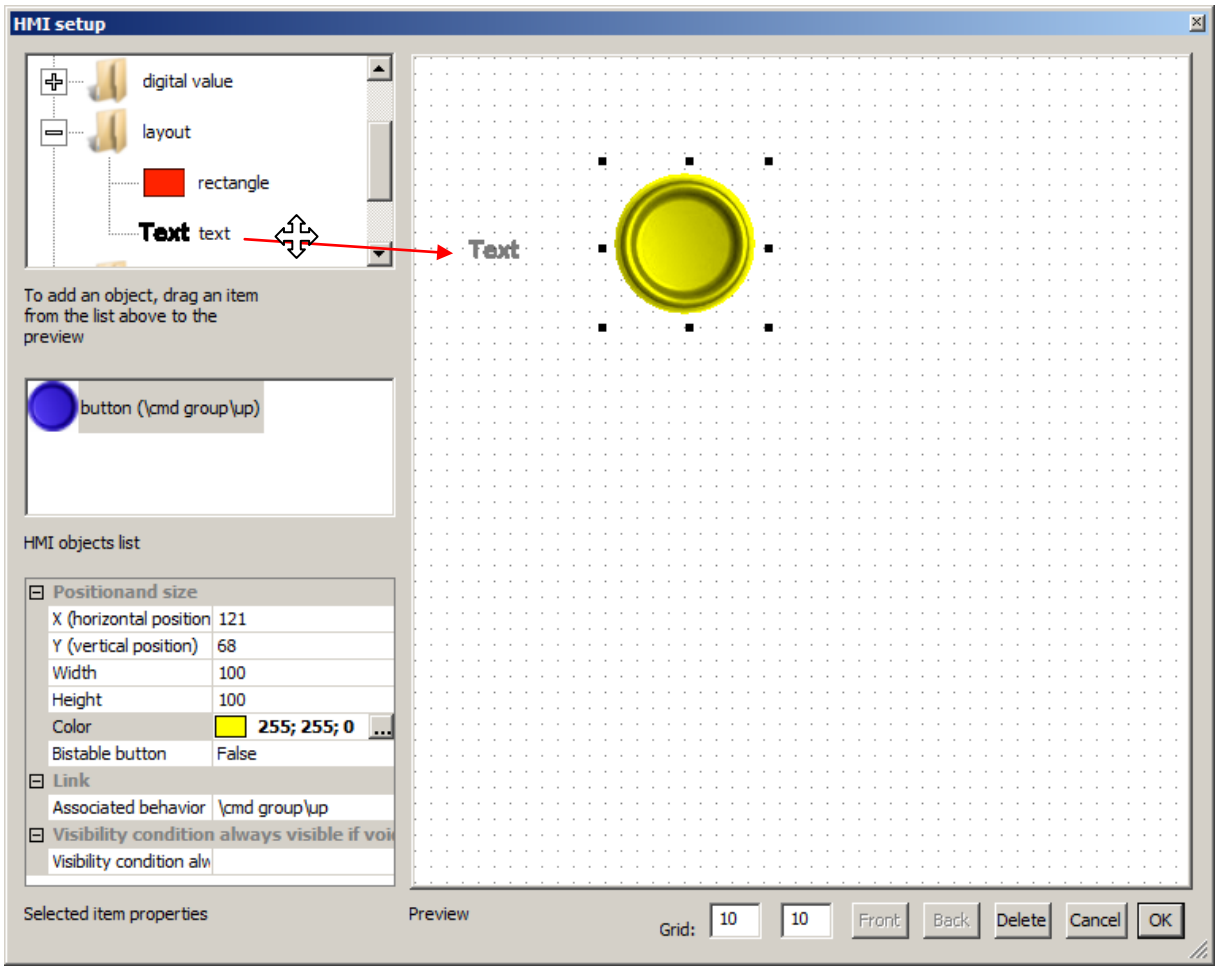

Behavior selection
movetomax
smini
smaxi
sinter
CHA_7-CharniÃ¨re_AR_Fix-
CHA_7-CharniÃ¨re_AR_mob
pallet1
pallet2
cmd group
up
down
exit fingers
return fingers
Cancel
OK

A4.9.2.5- Define the color of the button

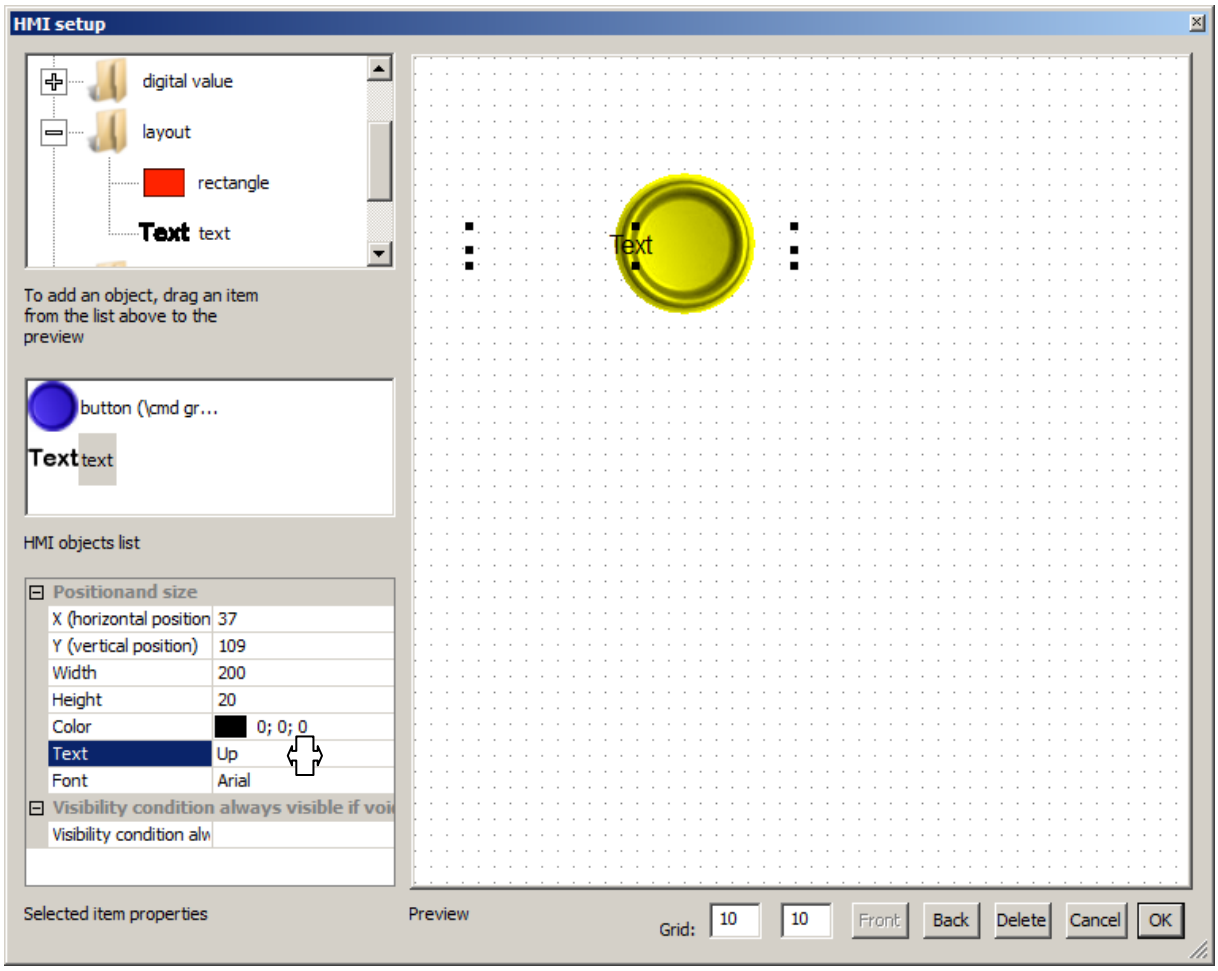




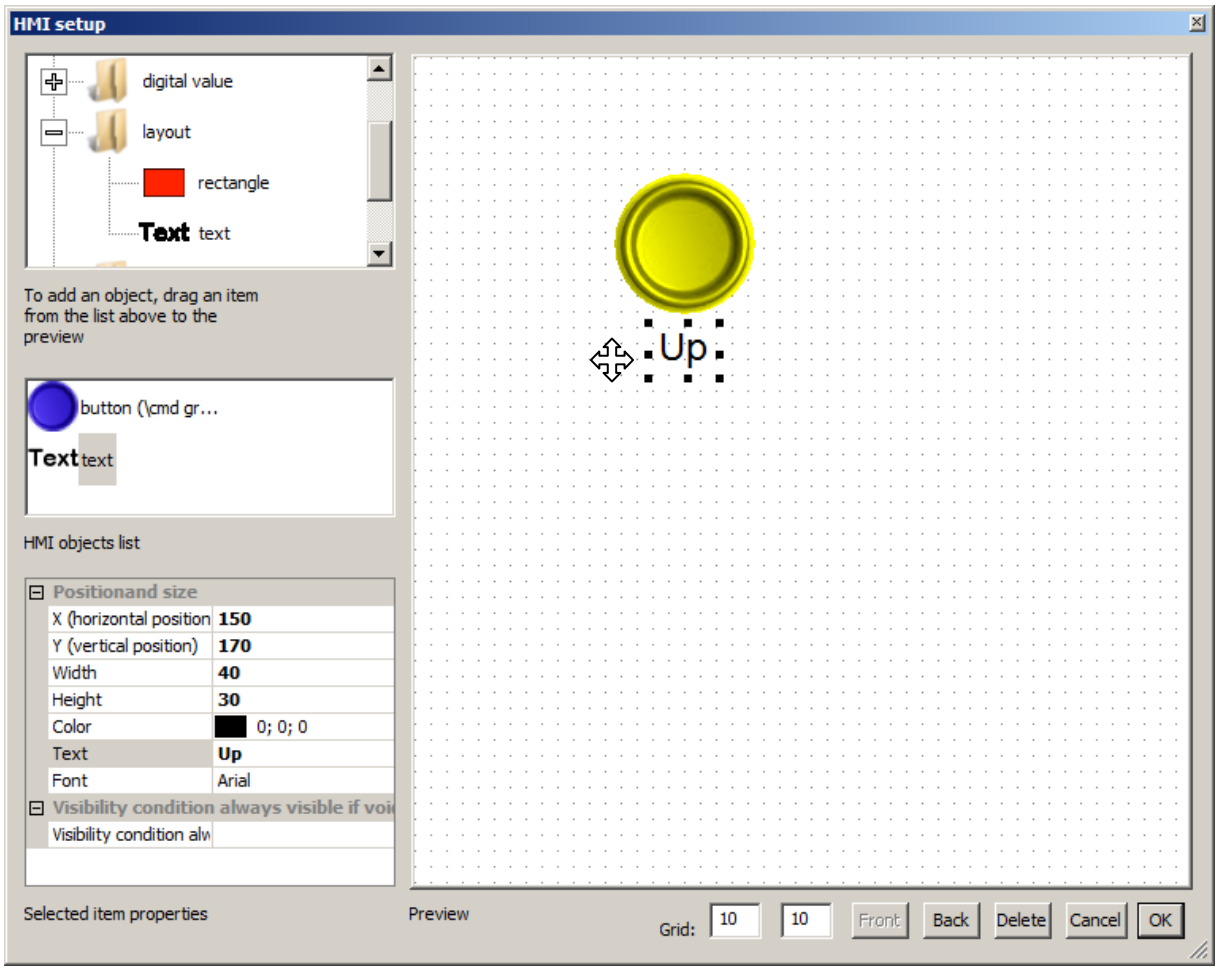
A4.9.2.6- Add a text



A4.9.2.7- Define the text

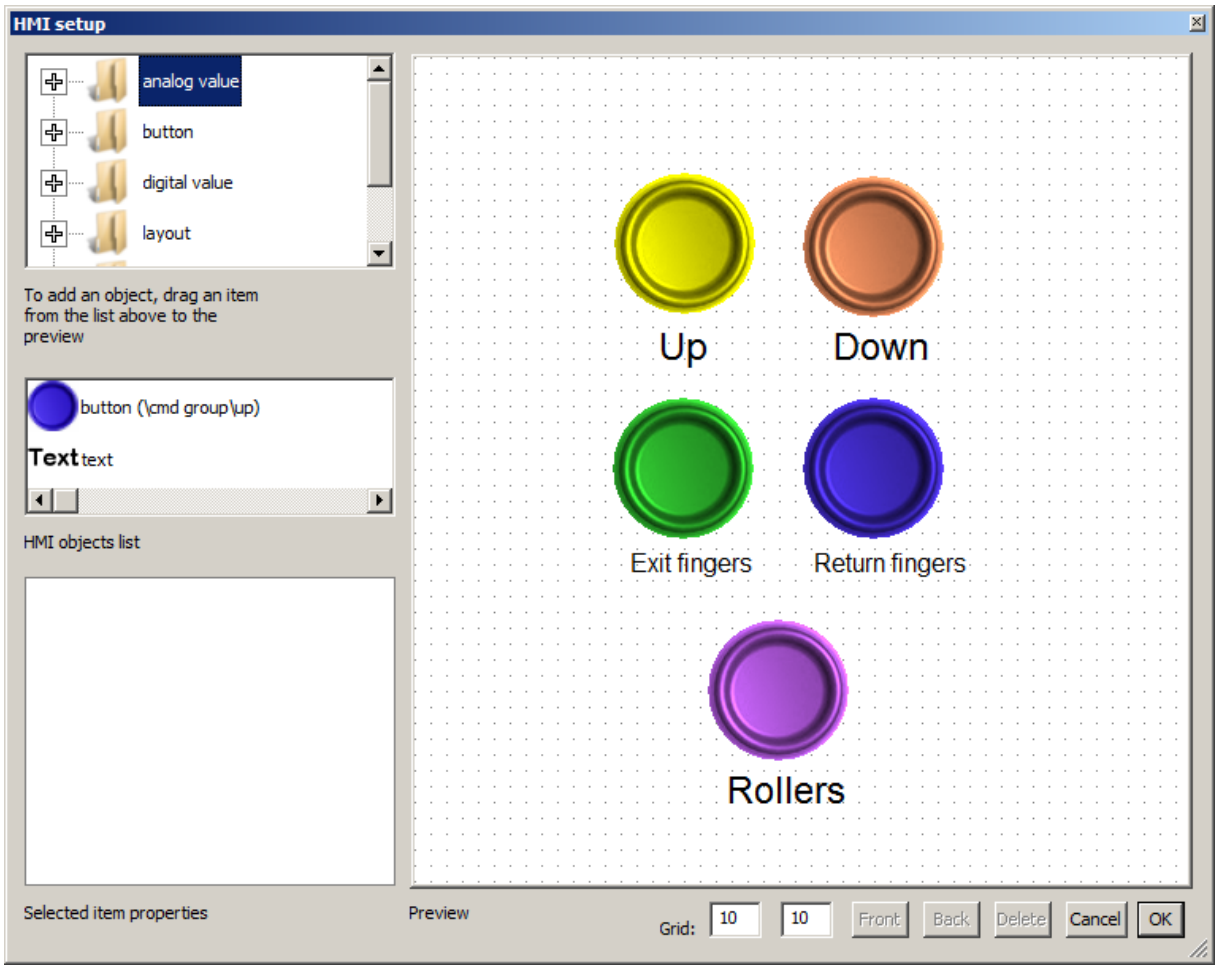


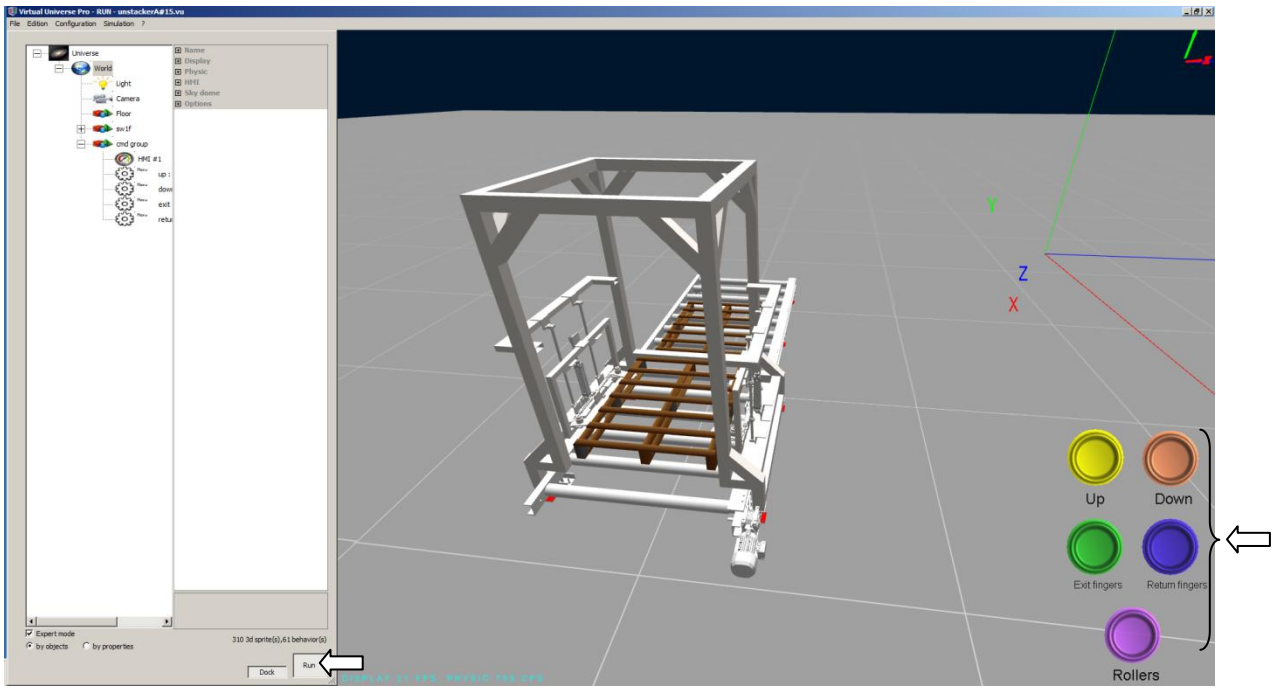
A4.9.2.8- Move the text



The same operation is performed for commands "down", "finger out", "fingers back" and "forward".

A#15



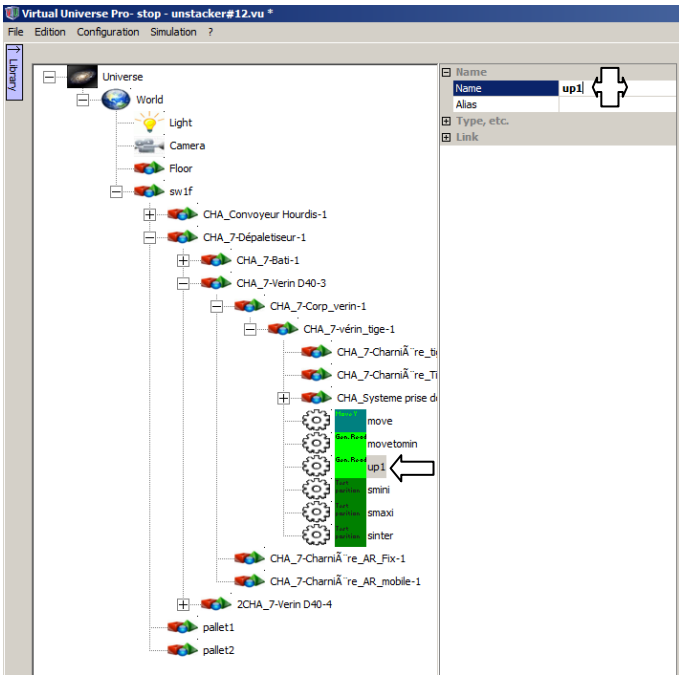


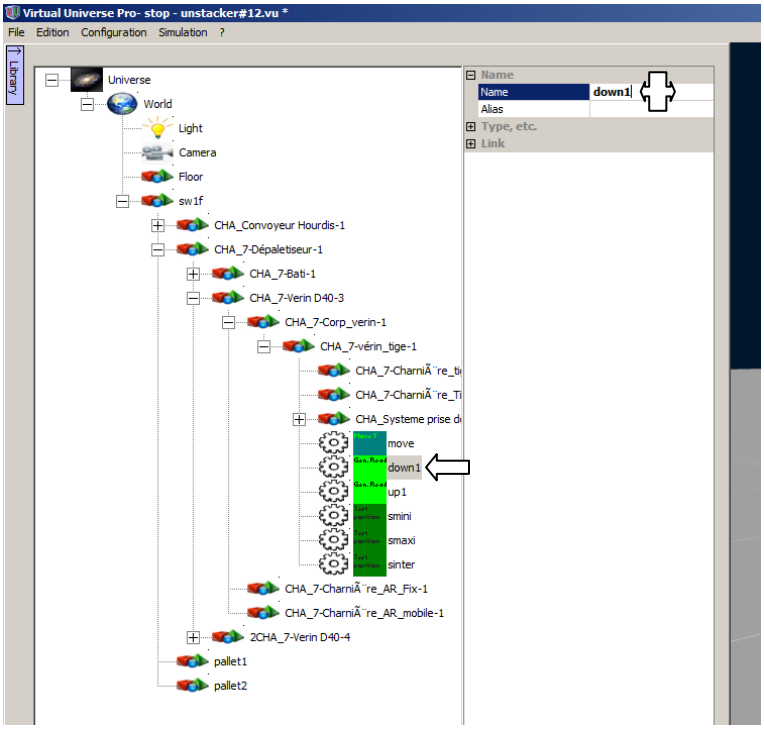
In RUN mode, the buttons allow you to manually create a cycle of the machine using the buttons on the HMI.

B4.9- Control with a virtual controller

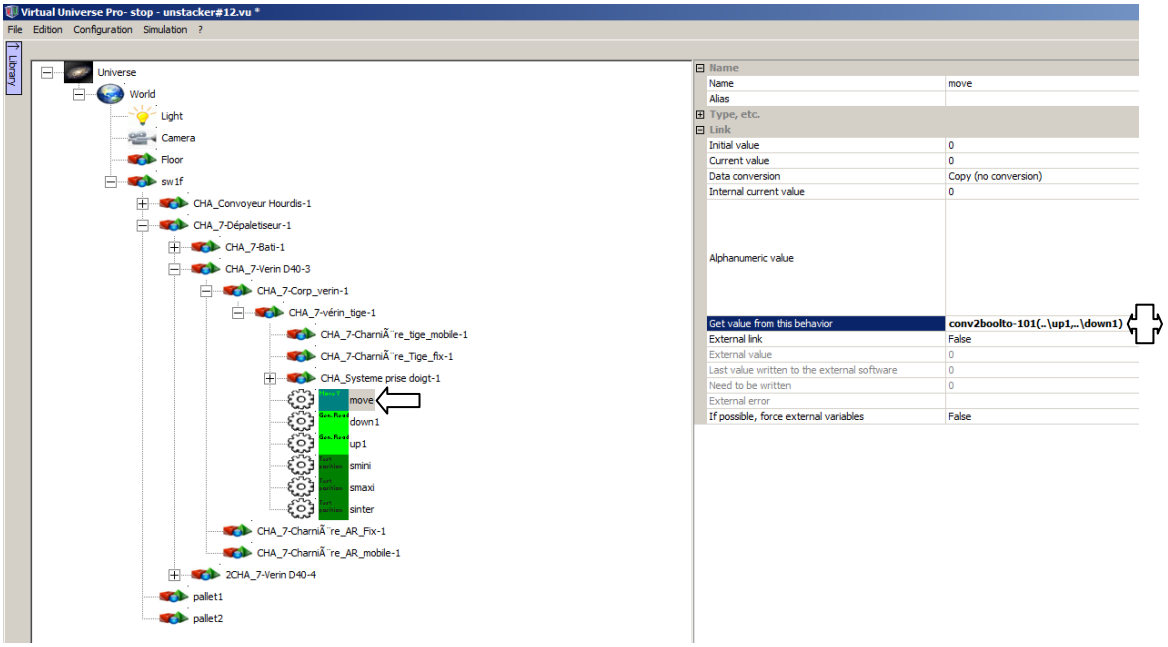
We restart from backup #12

B.4.9.1- Associating "speaking" names for sensors and actuators





The move behavior must be updated because it is linked with two behaviors that we have to change:



The procedure is the same for all actuators:

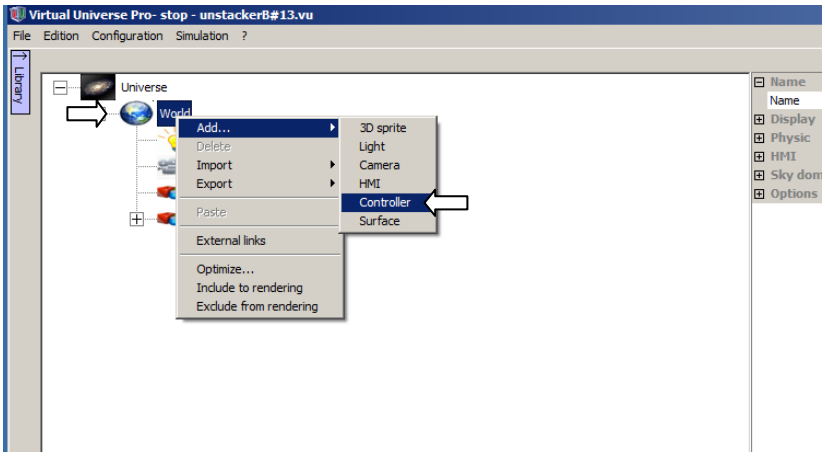
Actuators	Names
Vertical cylinder 1 up	up1
Vertical cylinder 1 down	down1
Vertical cylinder 2 up	up2
Vertical cylinder 2 down	down2
Exit finger 1	exit1
Return finger 1	return1
Exit finger 2	exit2
Return finger 2	return2
Exit finger 3	exit3
Return finger 3	return3
Exit finger 4	exit4
Return finger 4	return4
Rotate rollers	Driver rollers (already set)

and the sensors

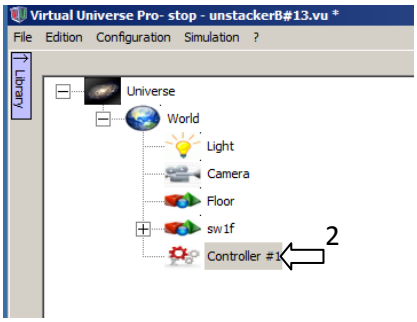
Sensors	Names
Vertical cylinder 1 bottom	bottom1
Vertical cylinder 1 top	top1
Vertical cylinder 1 intermediate	inter1
Vertical cylinder 2 bottom	bottom2
Vertical cylinder 2 top	top2
Vertical cylinder 2 intermediate	inter2
Finger 1 in	in1
Finger 1 out	out1
Finger 2 in	in2
Finger 2 out	out2
Finger 3 in	in3
Finger 3 out	out3
Finger 4 in	in4
Finger 4 out	out4

B#13

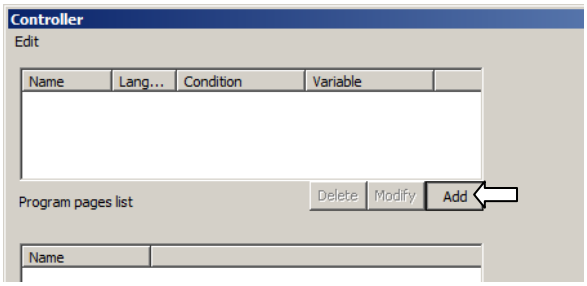
B.4.9.2- Add a virtual controller

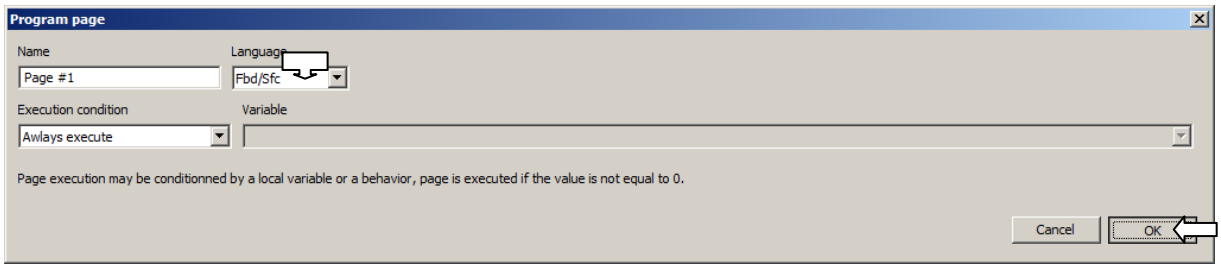


B.4.9.3- Modification

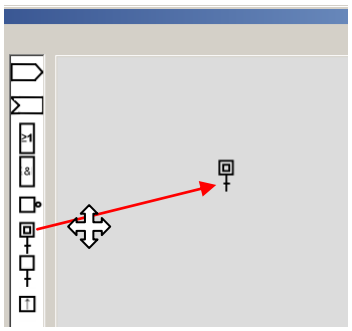


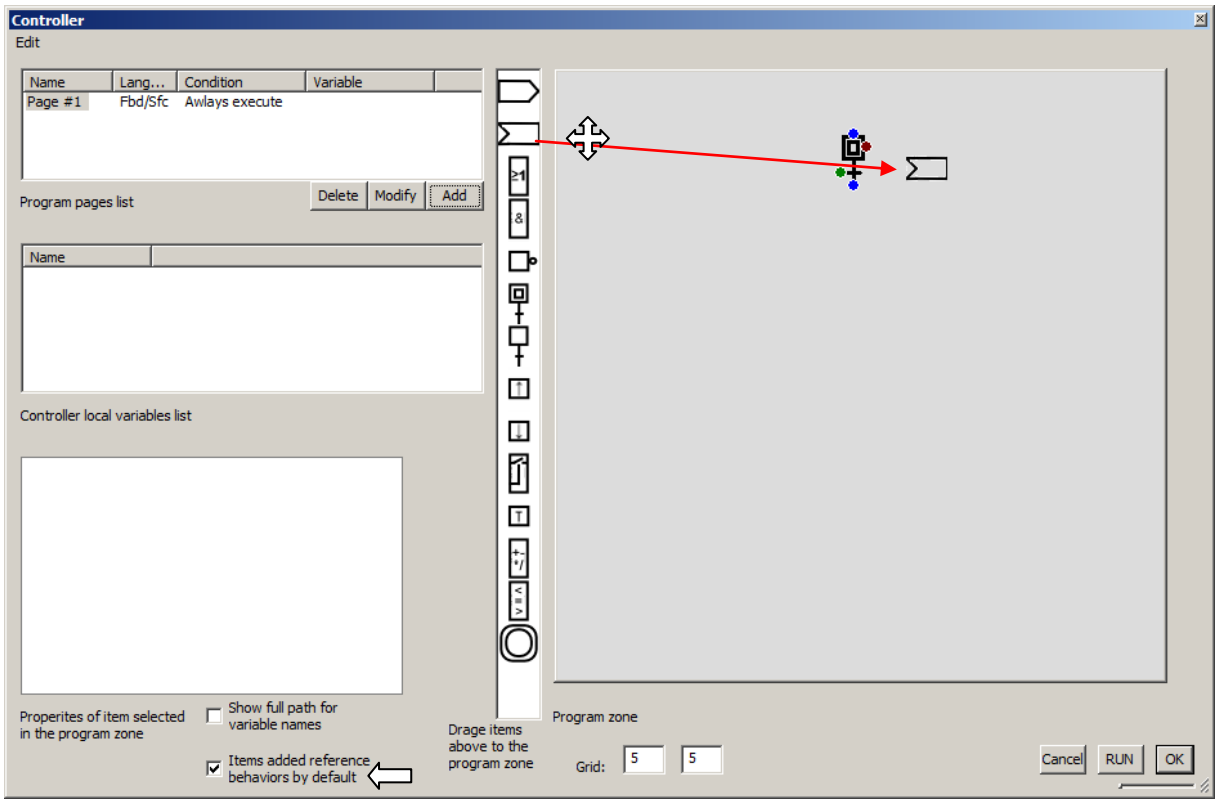
B.4.9.4- Add a SFC:DFB program

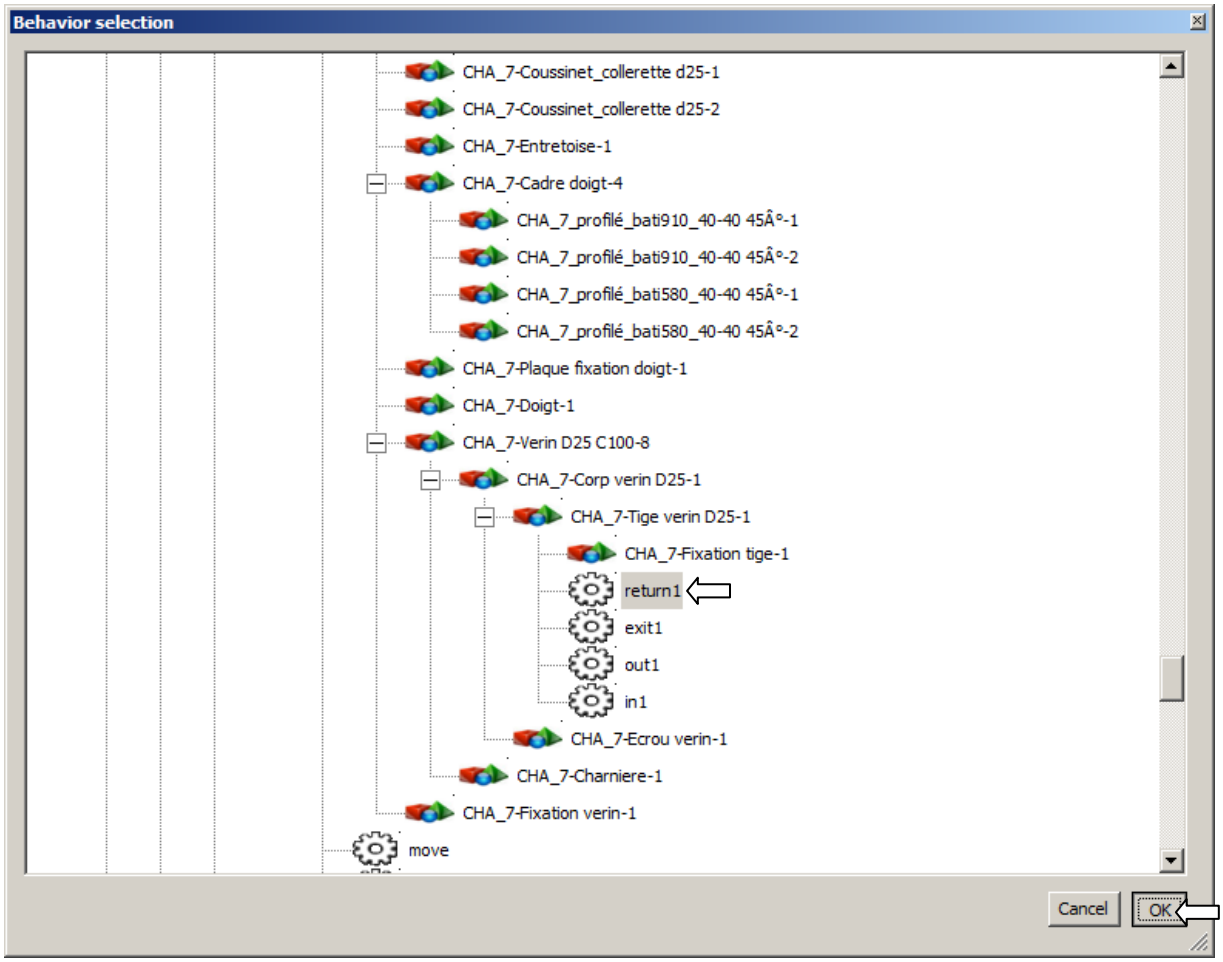




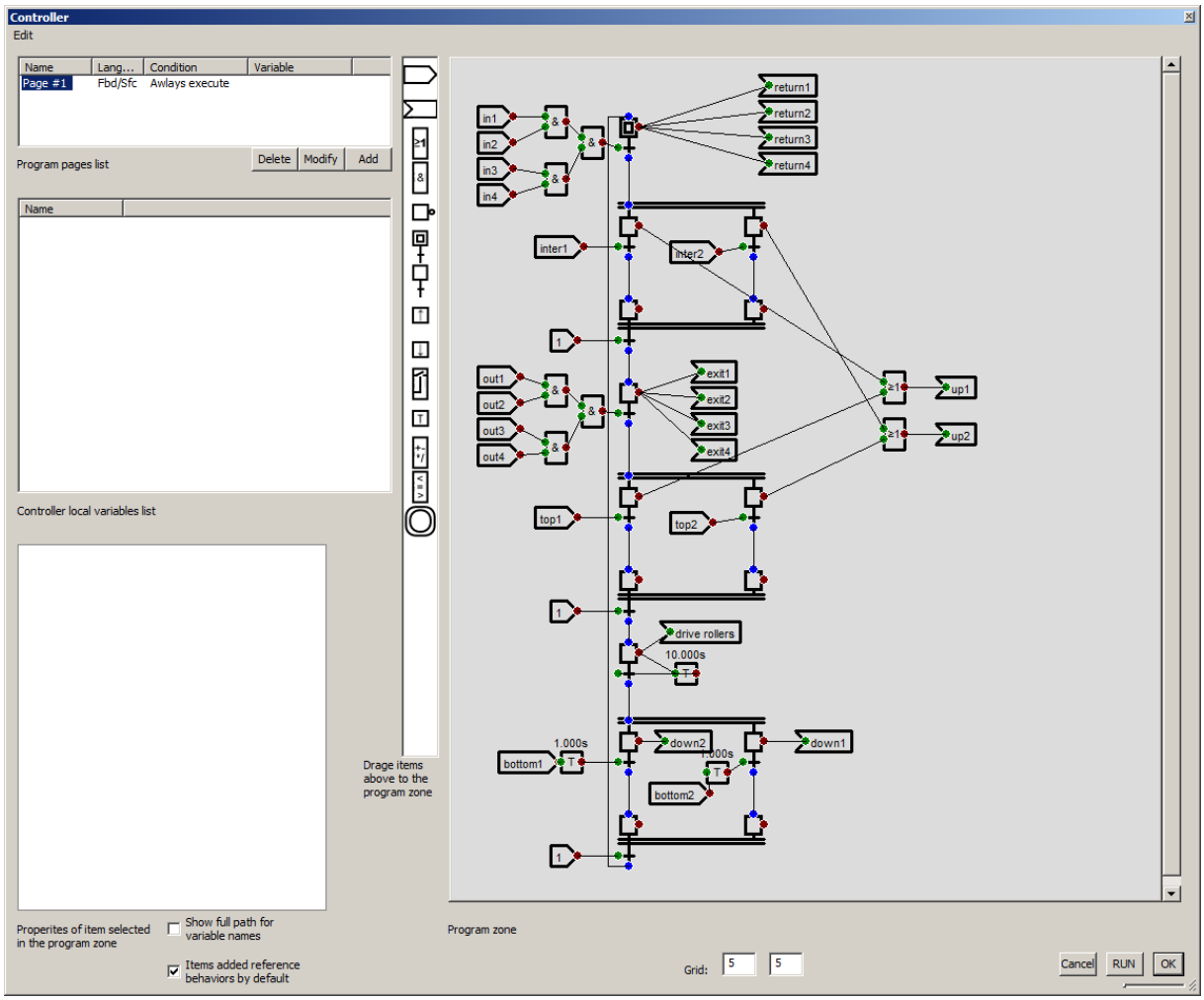
B.4.9.5- Create the program




Controller
Edit
Name
Lang...
Condition
Variable
Page #1
Fbd/Sfc
Awlays execute
Program pages list
Delete
Modify
Add
Name
Controller local variables list
Properites of item selected in the program zone
Show full path for variable names
Items added reference behaviors by default
Drage items above to the program zone
Program zone
Grid:
5
5
Cancel
RUN
OK


Behavior selection
CHA_7-Coussinet_collerette d25-1
CHA_7-Coussinet_collerette d25-2
CHA_7-Entretoise-1
CHA_7-Cadre doigt-4
CHA_7_profilé_bati910_40-40 45Â°-1
CHA_7_profilé_bati910_40-40 45Â°-2
CHA_7_profilé_bati580_40-40 45Â°-1
CHA_7_profilé_bati580_40-40 45Â°-2
CHA_7-Plaque fixation doigt-1
CHA_7-Doigt-1
CHA_7-Verin D25 C100-8
CHA_7-Corp verin D25-1
CHA_7-Tige verin D25-1
CHA_7-Fixation tige-1
return1
exit1
out1
in1
CHA_7-Ecrou verin-1
CHA_7-Charniere-1
CHA_7-Fixation verin-1
move
Cancel
OK

In the same way, create the whole program.

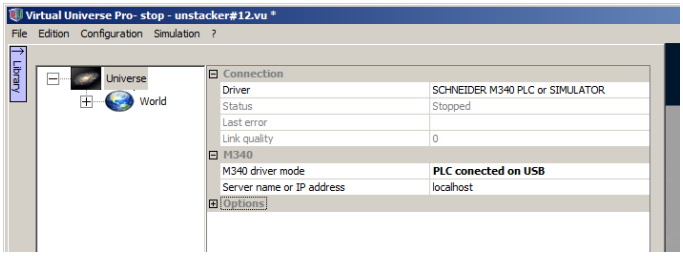


B#14

C4.9- Control with a Schneider Electric M340 PLC

We restart with the #12 backup

C.4.9.1- Select the M340 driver



In our case, the M340 PLC is connected to the USB port of the PC.

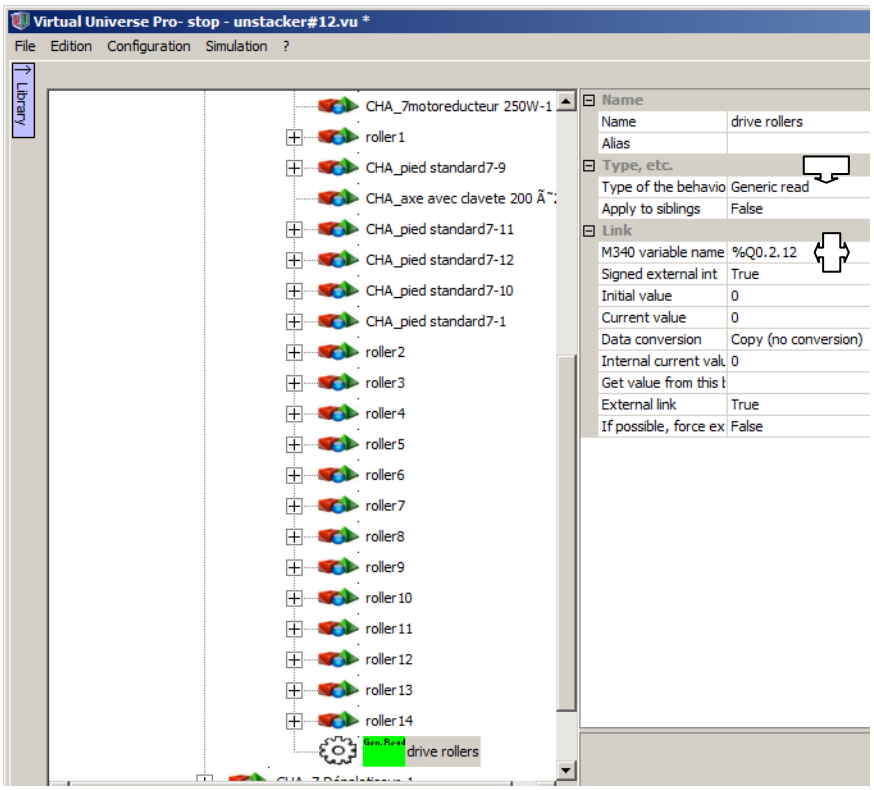
C.4.9.2- Define of the PLC variables

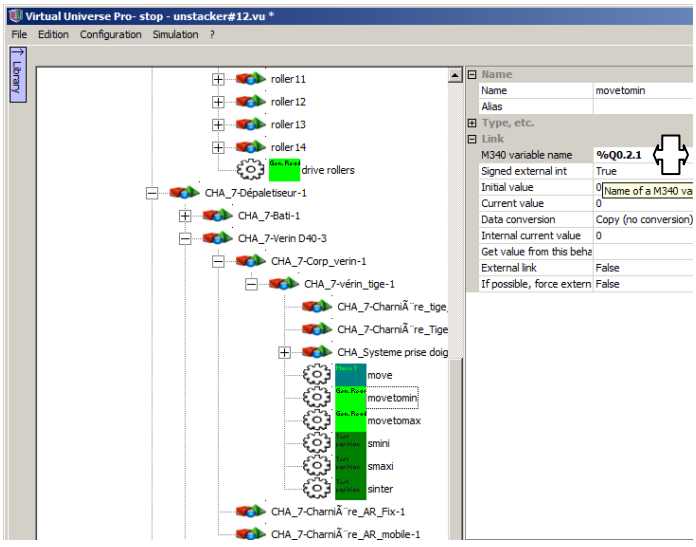
Actuators	PLC variable
Vertical cylinder 1 up	%Q0.2.0
Vertical cylinder 1 down	%Q0.2.1
Vertical cylinder 2 up	%Q0.2.2
Vertical cylinder 2 down	%Q0.2.3
Exit finger 1	%Q0.2.4
Return finger 1	%Q0.2.5
Exit finger 2	%Q0.2.6
Return finger 2	%Q0.2.7
Exit finger 3	%Q0.2.8
Return finger 3	%Q0.2.9
Exit finger 4	%Q0.2.10
Return finger 4	%Q0.2.11
Rotate rollers	%Q0.2.12

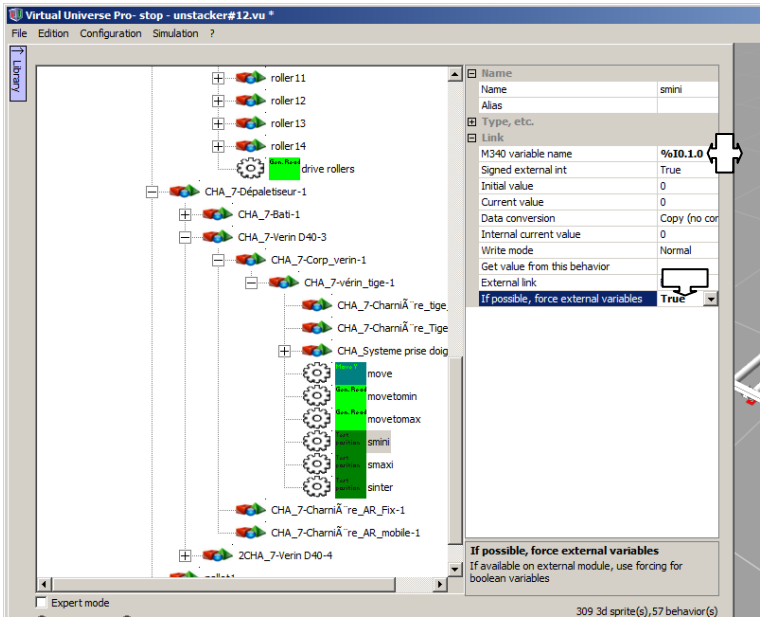
Sensors	PLC variable
Vertical cylinder 1 bottom	%I0.1.0
Vertical cylinder 1 top	%I0.1.1
Vertical cylinder 1 intermediate	%I0.1.2
Vertical cylinder 2 bottom	%I0.1.3
Vertical cylinder 2 top	%I0.1.4
Vertical cylinder 2 intermediate	%I0.1.5
Finger 1 in	%I0.1.6
Finger 1 out	%I0.1.7
Finger 2 in	%I0.1.8
Finger 2 out	%I0.1.9
Finger 3 in	%I0.1.10
Finger 3 out	%I0.1.11
Finger 4 in	%I0.1.12
Finger 4 out	%I0.1.13

C#13

C.4.9.3- Associating PLC variables to behaviors



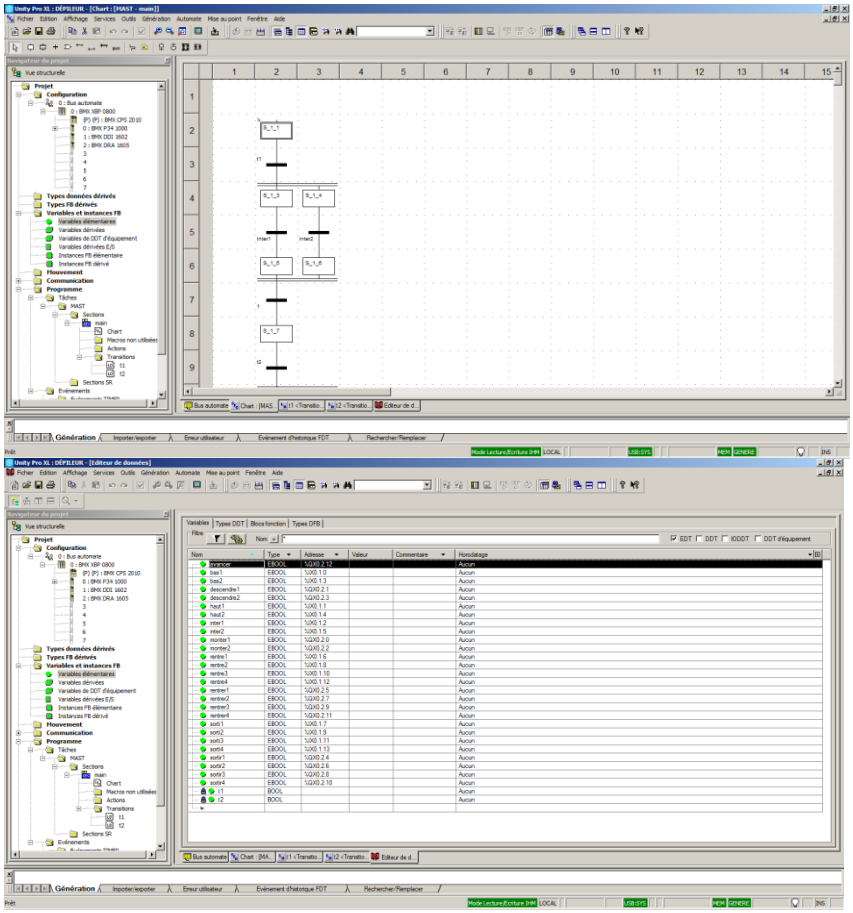




Do the same for all the behaviors which are associated to sensors and actuators.

#C14

C.4.9.4- Write the program in Schneider Electric Unity Pro software.



C.4.9.5- Launch the simulation

Upload the program to the PLC and run it.