

Note: this is just point form, you will write in APA style. Not all of this information will be required for your Method section write-up.

Participants

- Age Range: _____ - _____
- Median Age: _____
- Who?
- Why?
- (Where from?)
- How many (14 so far...); 5 men, 7 women
- _____ right-handed
- _____ left handed
- No participant reported any visual problem likely to bear on the results of the study (for our purposes you could say "all participants reported normal or corrected-to-normal vision.")
 - Corrected-to-normal is acuity correction via eye-glasses.
 - All participants reported normal color vision ????

Stimuli

- The visual stimuli consisted of a cue and target.
- The cue was a horizontal or vertical black frame (71x172 pixels with a three pixel black border; 3.5 cm x 9 cm; ___ x ___ degrees visual angle)
- The target was the color that was used to fill the cue frame (green or blue)
- The frame (whether vertical or horizontal) was centered on the (i.e., on the midline) of the monitor screen (both horizontally and vertically)
- The green (for 'go' trials) was displayed using the rgb values of 0, 255, 0 on the 0-255 IBM rgb intensity scale.
- The blue (for 'no-go' trials) used the rgb values of 0, 0, 255.
- Only one color (green or blue) was used for each trial.

Task

- The experimental task was a 'go/no-go' task. On 'go' trials the participant was to indicate a response by transiently releasing a response key that they were otherwise always holding down throughout the experimental trials. On 'no-go' trials, the participant was not to respond (i.e., was not to release the response key).

Each Trial

- The background throughout the experiment was white (rgb values of 255,255,255).
- The fixation was a black (0,0,0) asterisk. (___ degree visual angle)

Timing parameters

- The fixation cross was presented for 800 ms.
- The blank screen following fixation was presented for 500 ms.
- The cue was shown for 150, 250, 350, 450, or 550 ms (i.e., the cue-target Stimulus Onset Asynchrony (SOA) was 150, 250, 350, 450, or 550 ms).
- [note: SOA is a “term of art” it means the delay between the onset of two subsequent stimuli]
- The screen was a dell 30” flat screen monitor.

Each trials began with the presentation of a fixation cross for 800 ms. The fixation cross was always presented at center of the computer screen.

The black frame (the cue) appeared 500 ms after the fixation cross disappeared.

The visual stimulus (the colored box) was response terminated (i.e., was visible until a response was recorded) or timed out after 1000 ms.

After a response was recorded, the cue and target disappeared.

Response feedback was provided after the response was made. The response feedback consisted of the response time to the correct response (0 ms for a correct failure to execute a response) in green (correct) or the word “Incorrect” in red (incorrect).

The response feedback was provided for 700 ms. The offset of the response feedback coincided with the start of the fixation cross for the next trial (i.e., the Inter-trial-interval was 0 ms).

Accuracy

- correct go responses (releasing the key) produced a ‘valid’ response time (“___ milliseconds”) in green for a duration of ___ ms after the response was executed.
- Correct failures to respond to no-go trials produced feedback of the form “000 milliseconds”.
- Failures to respond to ‘go’ trials or responding to ‘no-go’ trials were indicated by the word ‘incorrect’ appearing at the center of the screen in lieu of the correct response time feedback.

Apparatus:

- The experiment programmed using the E-prime experiment generation program (Psychology Software Tools, Inc.)

- The experiment was always run with each individual participant alone in a darkened (dimly lit) individual testing laboratory.
- The experiment was run on a PC-compatible microcomputer.
- The viewing distance was approximately 75 cm. A chin-rest was not used.

Procedure:

The experimental task:

Discriminate blue boxes from green boxes
Responses by releasing the the “/” key on the computer keyboard
Half of the trials were ‘go; half were ‘no-go’. 80% of the trials were validly cued (vertical frame for ‘go’, horizontal frame for no-go)

Response:

Release of the “/” key on the keyboard
If a response was not executed within 1000 ms of target onset, that task was considered to have “timed out” and was considered an error if it was a ‘go’ trial; correctly not responded to if it was a ‘no-go’ trial.
The instructions asked the participants to gently rest a finger on the response key in preparation to respond.

Design / etc.

There were no practice trials

40% valid cue ‘go’ trials (go response)
10% valid invalid cue ‘no-go’ trials (no-go)
40% valid cue ‘no-go’ trials (no-go)
10% invalid cue ‘no-go’ trials (go response)

250 total trials, five blocks of 50 trials each. Random order of conditions within each block.
30 second timed break between each block

5x 2 x 2 within-subject factorial design. The within-subject factors were SOA, valid/invalid (80/20) and go/no-go.

The first block of 50 trials (of the 250 total) were not analyzed (practice trials).

For RESULTS (or participant section?): low accuracy led to dropping one male and one female participant (so N=12 for analyses). Both dropped showed evidence of a failure to perform the experimental task (one or more cells of the design revealing accuracies of approximately 50% or lower).

IF YOU WANT ME TO OPEN THE LAB FOR YOU TO EITHER RE-RUN THE EXPERIMENT OR TO SEE THE TEXT OF THE INSTRUCTIONS SCREENS PLEASE DO ASK.