

Operator Sensitivity to Target-Present and Target-Absent Warning Signals in a Difficult Visual Search Task

Collin Scarince

Introduction

Objective:

- How does dependency on a search aid change as the aid become more or less accurate during use?
- Are compliance and reliance symmetrical as aid accuracy shifts?

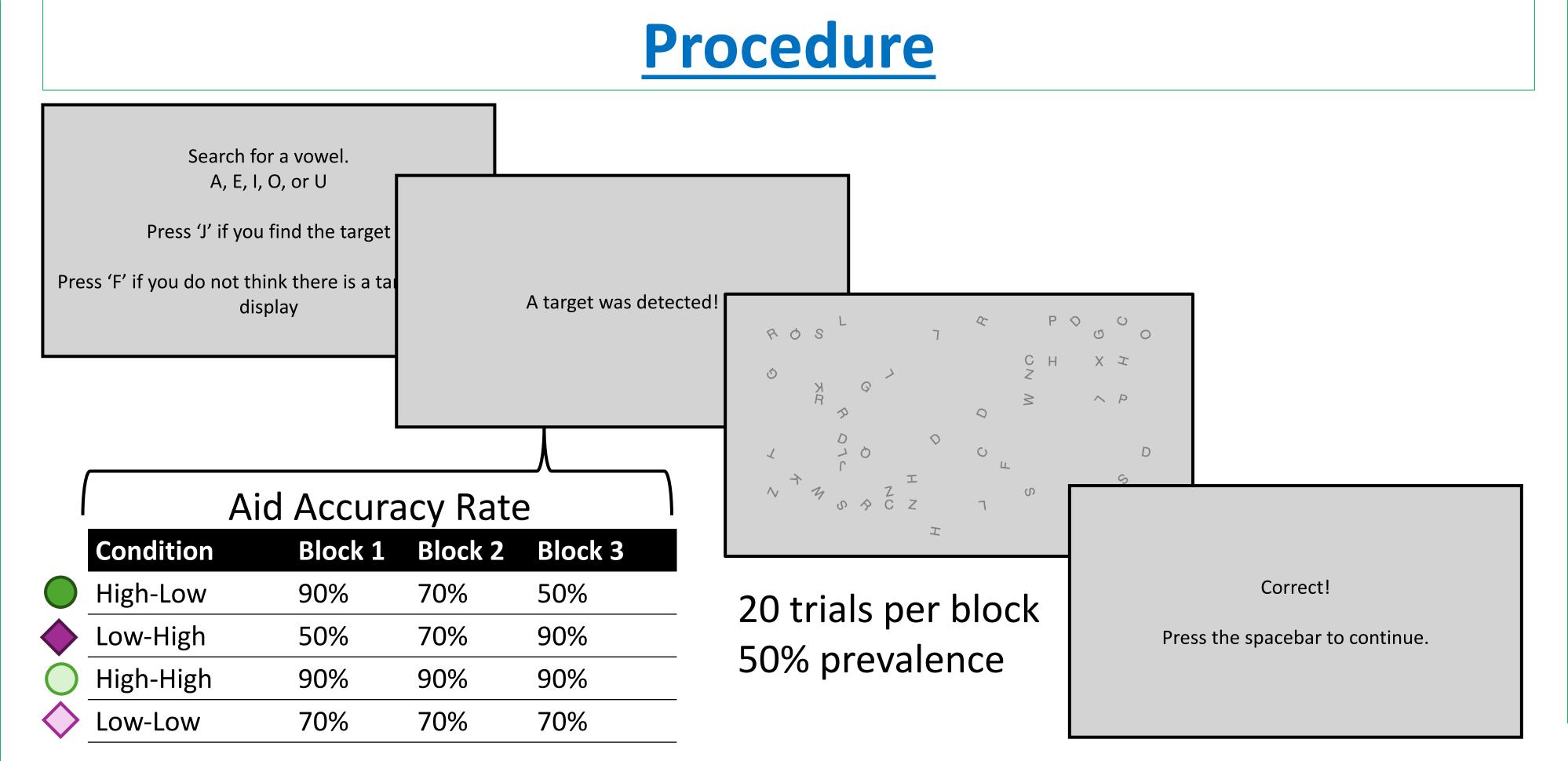
Background:

- Computer vision tools can be helpful for difficult, high-impact search tasks.
- Prescreening tools can flag items that likely have a target but are subject to error.
- Users develop "trust" in a system based on its accuracy.
 - Compliance: Dependency on Target-Present Signals
- Reliance: Dependency on Target-Absent Signals
- Users are sensitive to miss and false alarm aid errors.
- Visual search involves decisions about identifying targets and when to stop searching.
- For target-present trials, there is a signal to verify the aid's accuracy.
- For target-absent trials, there is not a strong external signal about when to stop searching.

Method

- Participants: N = 160
 - Age 18 50 (M = 20.8); 84% Women
- Materials: 60 trials of 50 rotated
 English capital letters. Vowels served as the target category.
- Design:

4 (aid accuracy) x 2 (target presence) x 3 (block) mixed design



Discussion

- Participants were generally underdependent and non-compliant with the search aid for target-present trials.
- More dependency on target-absent signals.
 - Longer rejection RTs when unreliable
 - Higher reliance overall compared to compliance
 - More error agreement in absent trials.

Results

Dependency

