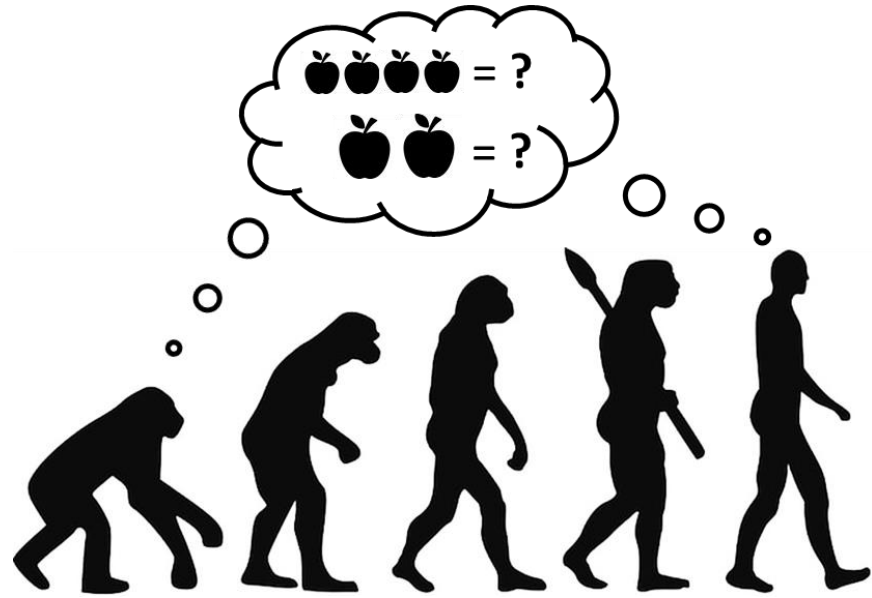


# Spontaneous Numerical Cognition in human and non-human Primates

**Guillermo Hidalgo Gadea and Gema Martin Ordas**

**#PSGBspring19**



# Agenda

## Introduction

Quantity Discrimination  
Numerical Cognition

## Methods

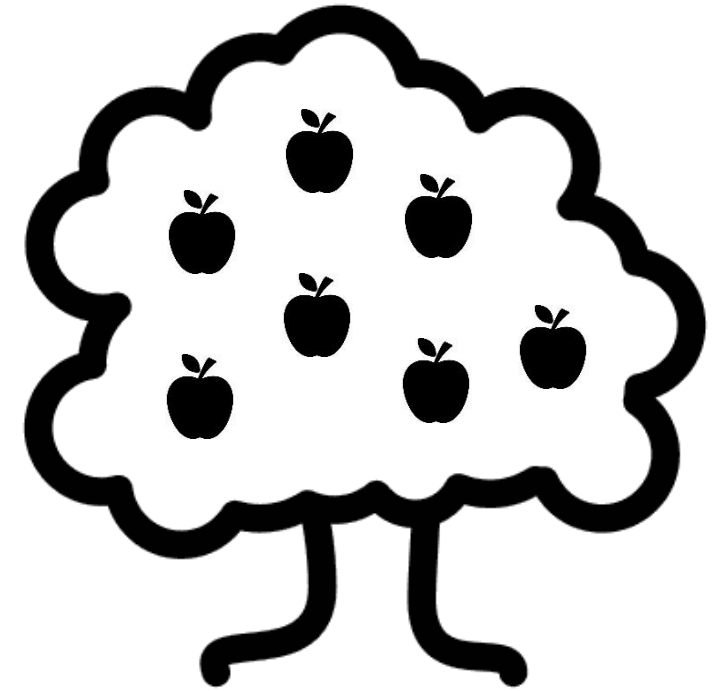
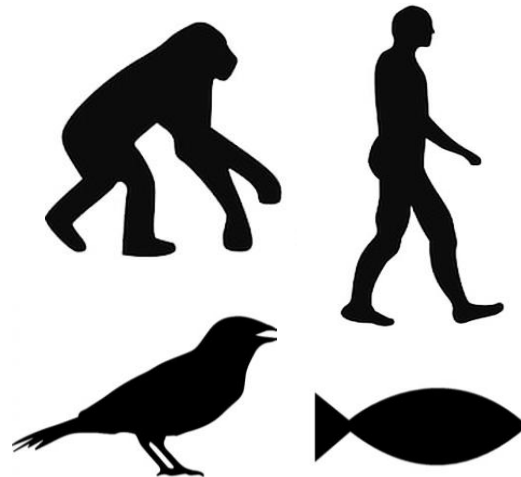
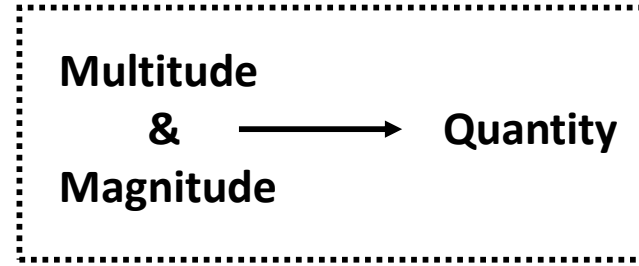
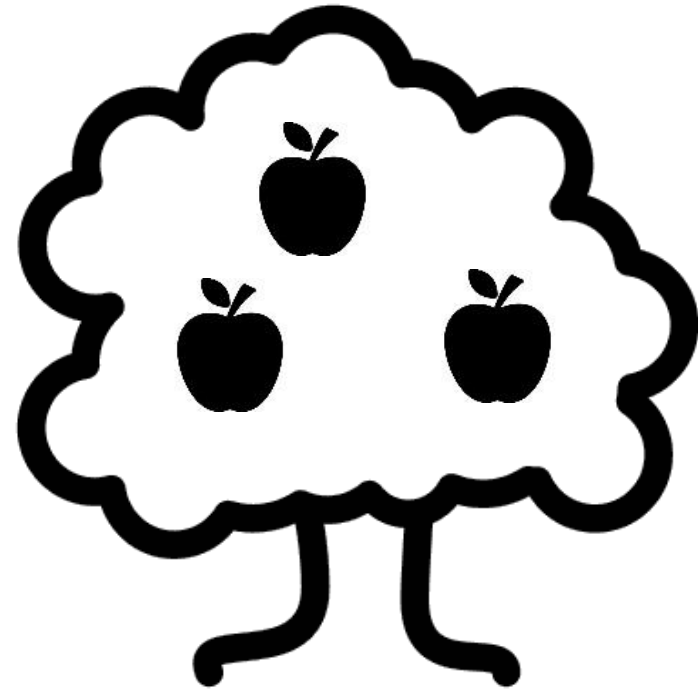
Task, Stimuli, Design  
Subjects

## Results

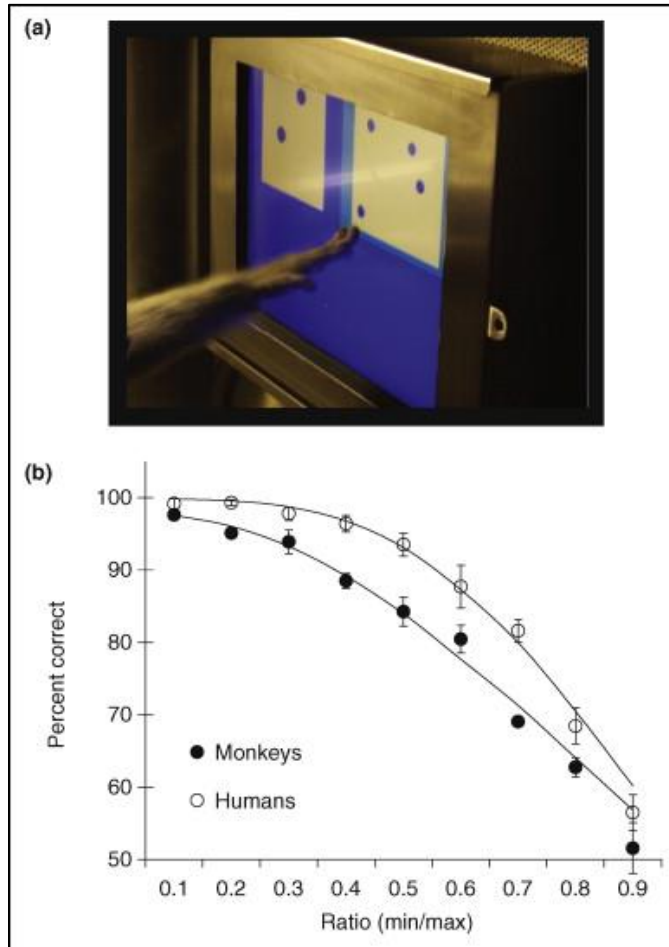
Chimpanzee  
Human

## Research Question

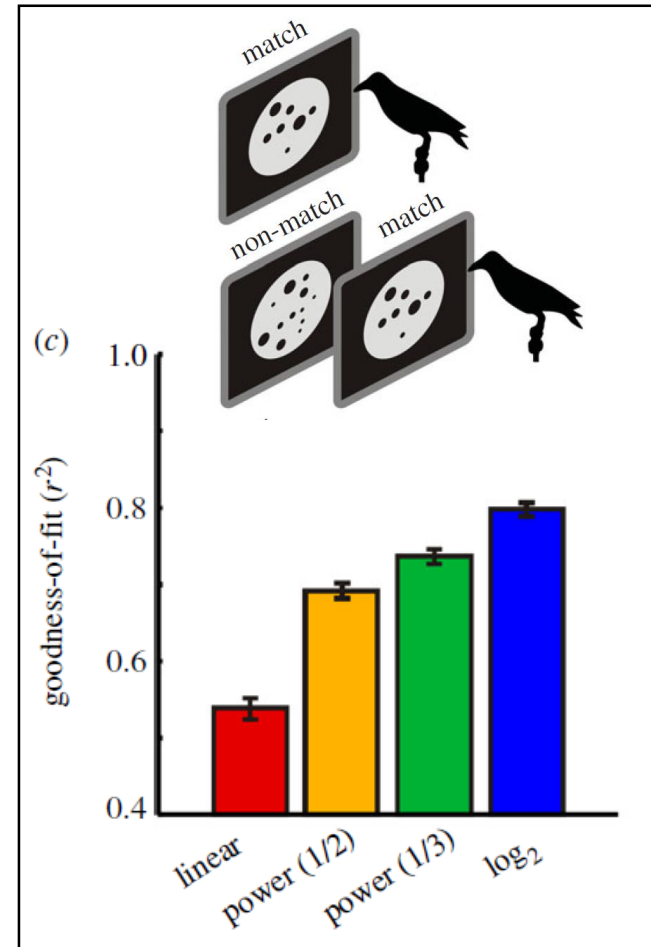
# Introduction: Quantity Discrimination



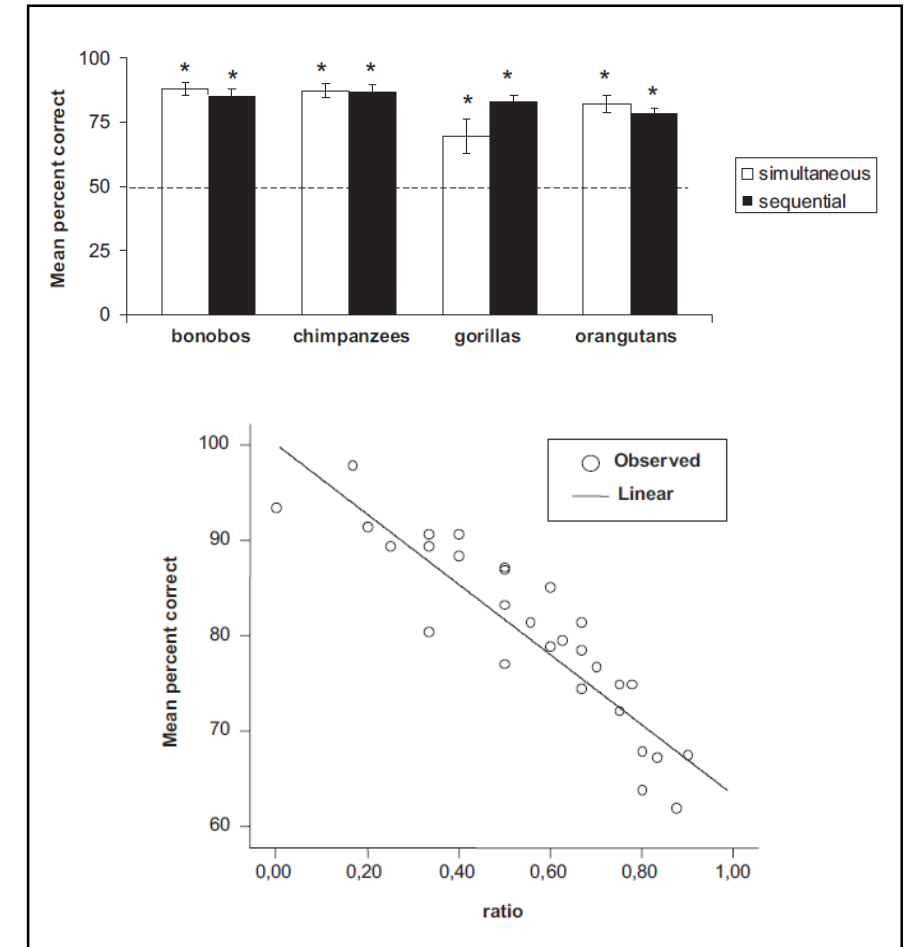
# Introduction: Numerical cognition



Cantlon, Platt & Brannon (2009)



Ditz & Nieder (2016)



Hanus & Call (2007)

# Methods: Task



# Methods: Task





# Methods: stimuli



## Methods: Design

# Presentation styles

- Visible plates
- Covered cups

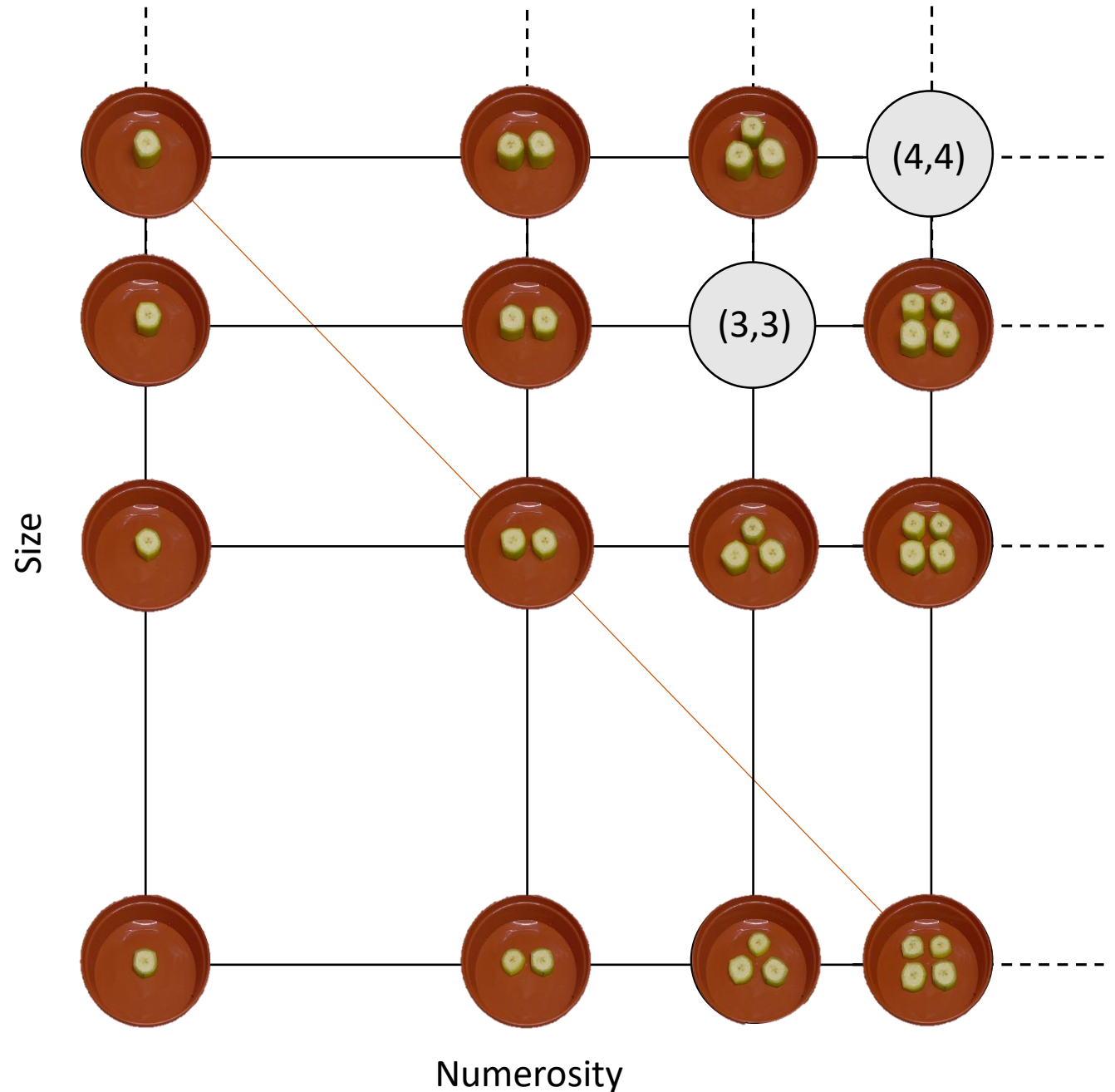


## Conditions

- Numerosity
- Size
- Critical Discriminations
- Equal Quantities



## Natural Choice: Stimulus = Reward





# Methods: Metrics

## IV:

Quantity Ratio =  $Q_1/Q_2$

Quantity Difference =  $Q_2 - Q_1$

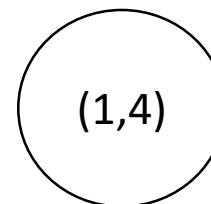
Number Ratio =  $N_1/N_2$

Size Ratio =  $S_1/S_2$

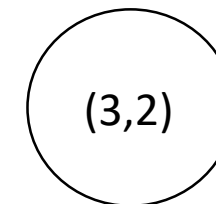
## DV:

Highest quantity choice

e.g. (numerosity) **critical combination**

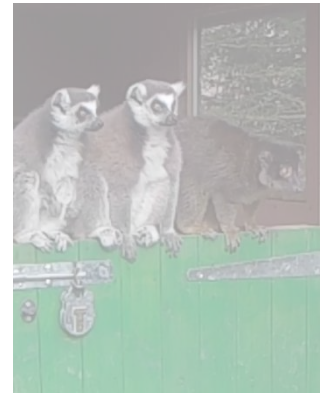


VS.

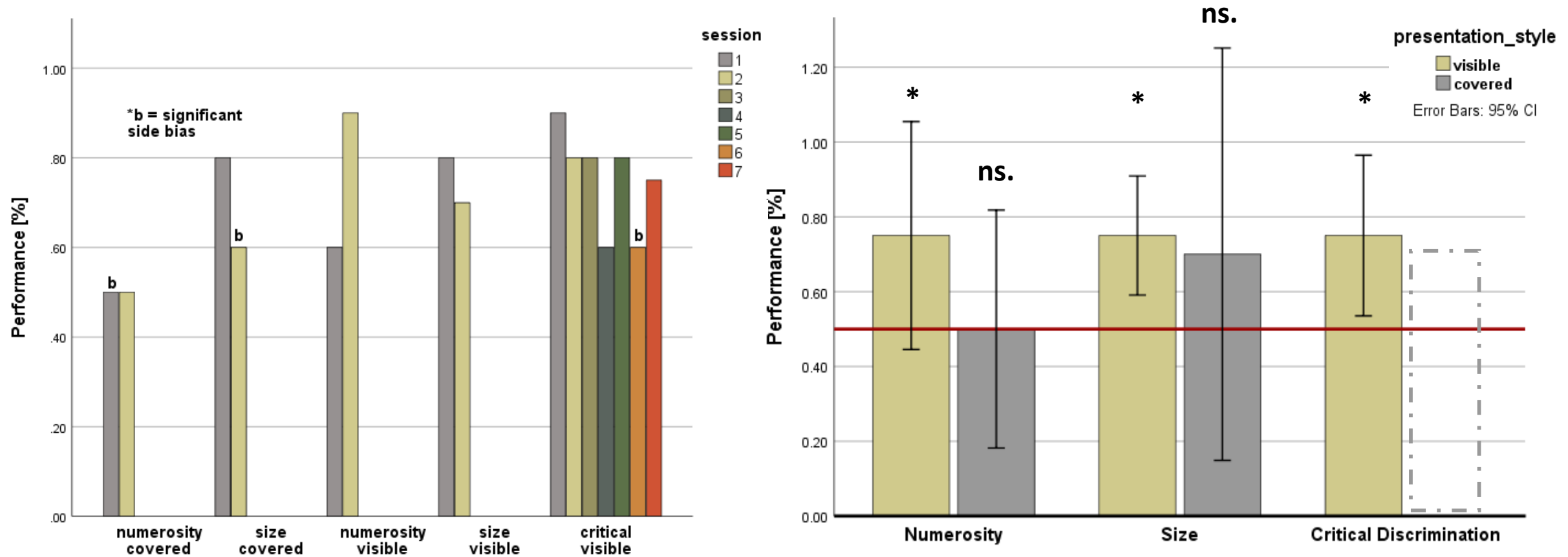


# Methods: Subjects

- **Undergraduate psychology students**  
N = 92 (78 f), age M = 22.15 years SD = 4.62  
tested in 4 groups at the University of Stirling.
- **One chimpanzee** (f, 30 years) captive living group of four at Blair Drummond Safari Park not deprived from food or water, not separated
- Expected: **Four Ring-Tailed Lemurs** (2 f) and **two Brown Lemurs** (2 m) from a captive living group at the Blair Drummond Safari park



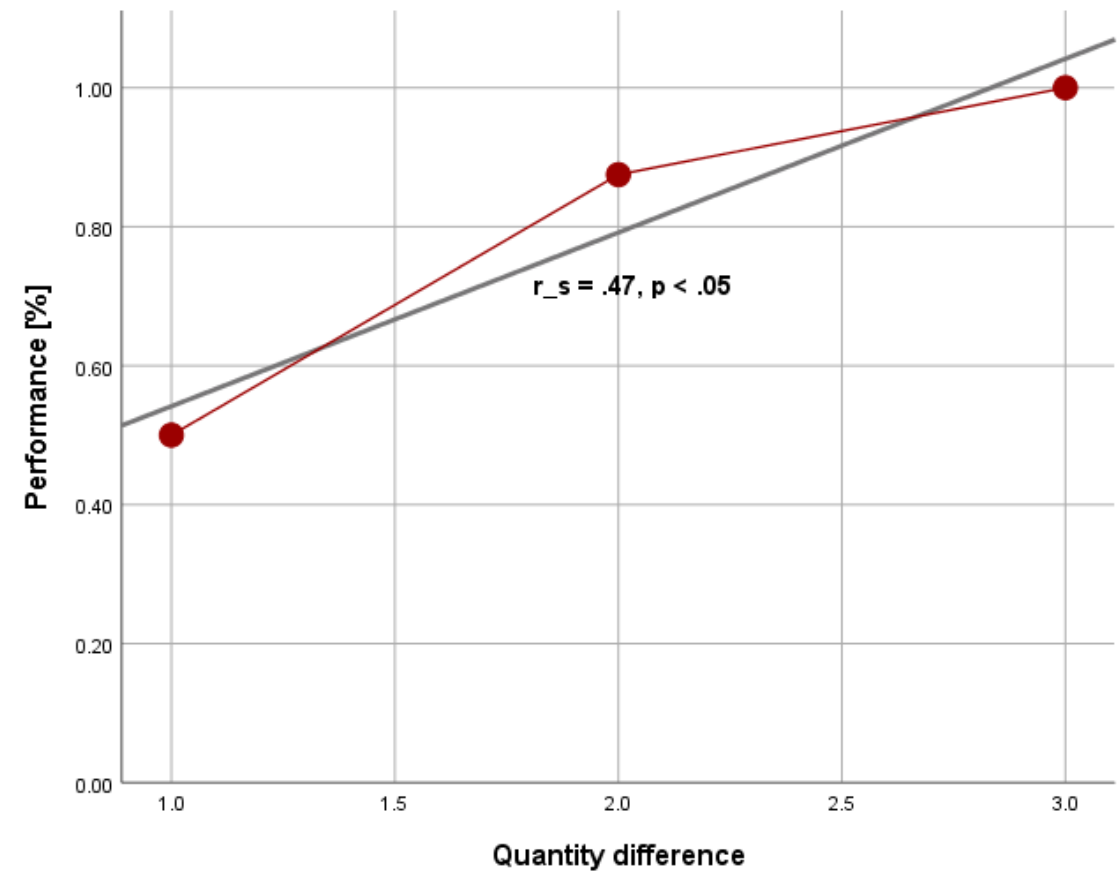
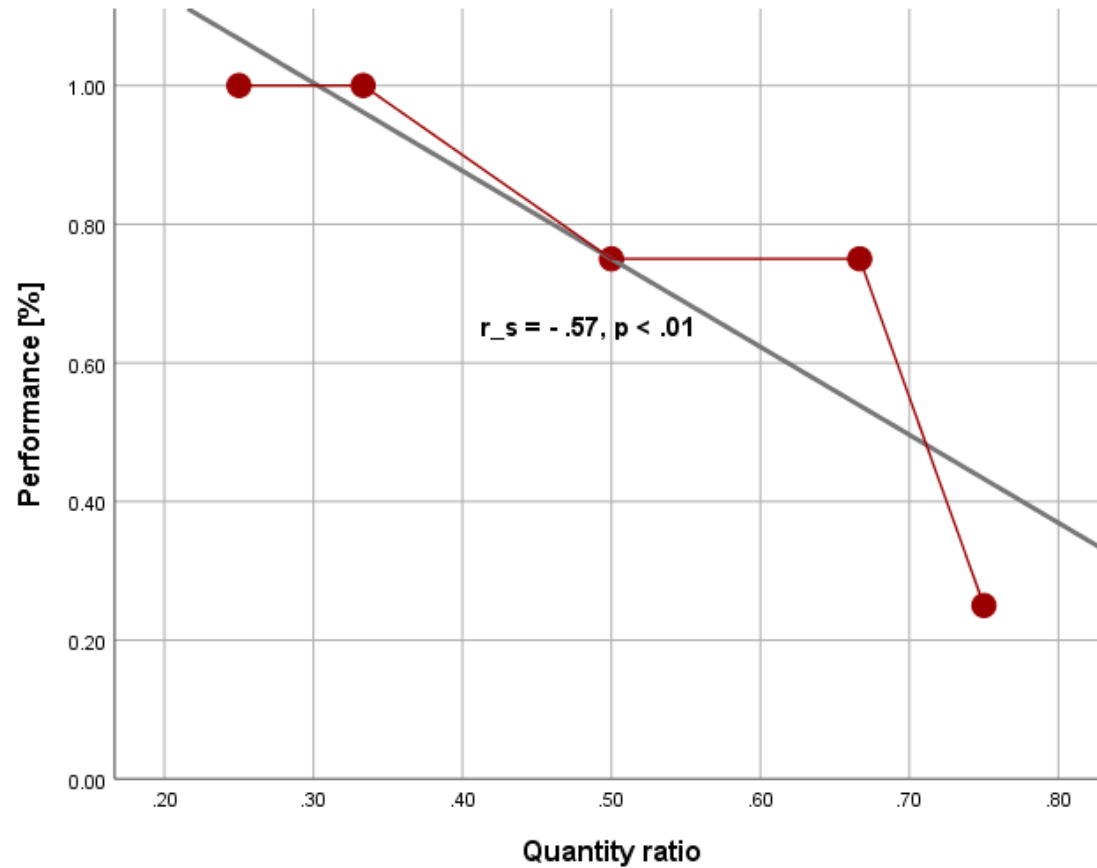
# Results: Chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes*)



Significant side bias (Binomial test,  $p < .05$ ) on single sessions in covered conditions and critical discrimination.

Performance in covered conditions not significantly different from chance level (Binomial test,  $p < .05$ ).

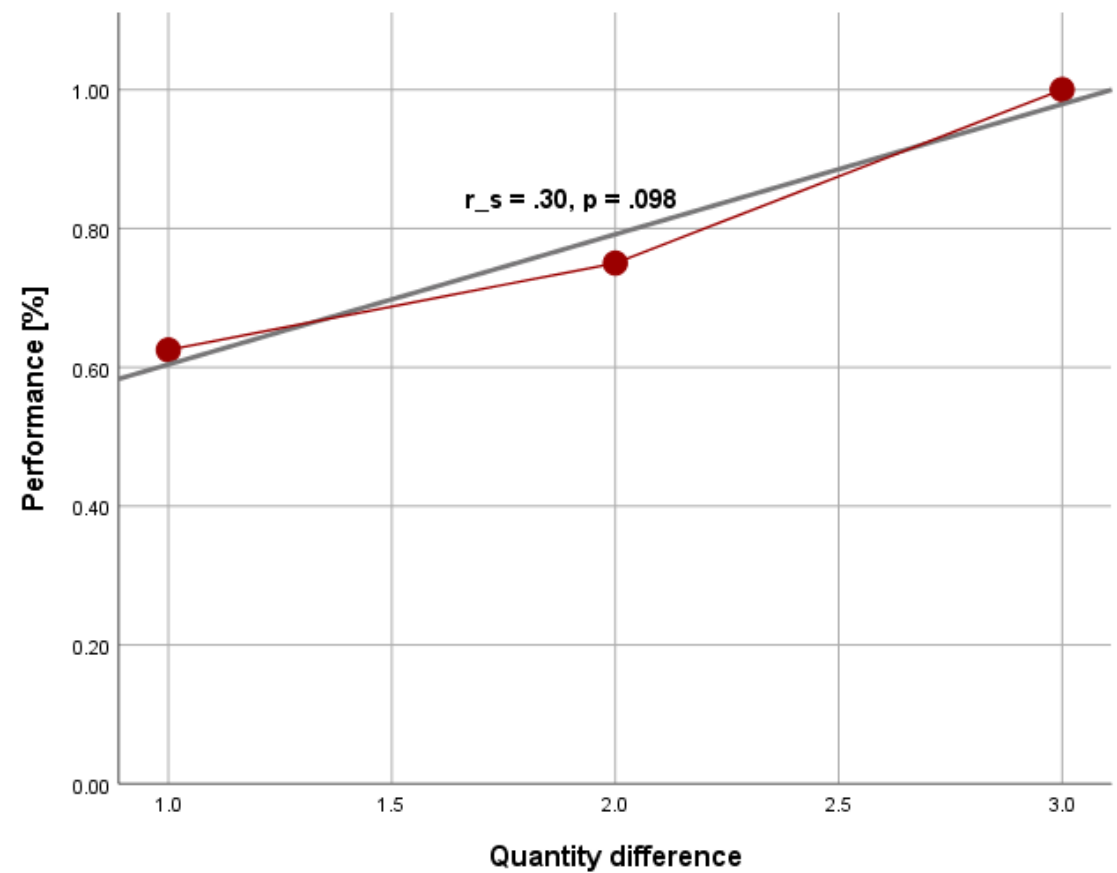
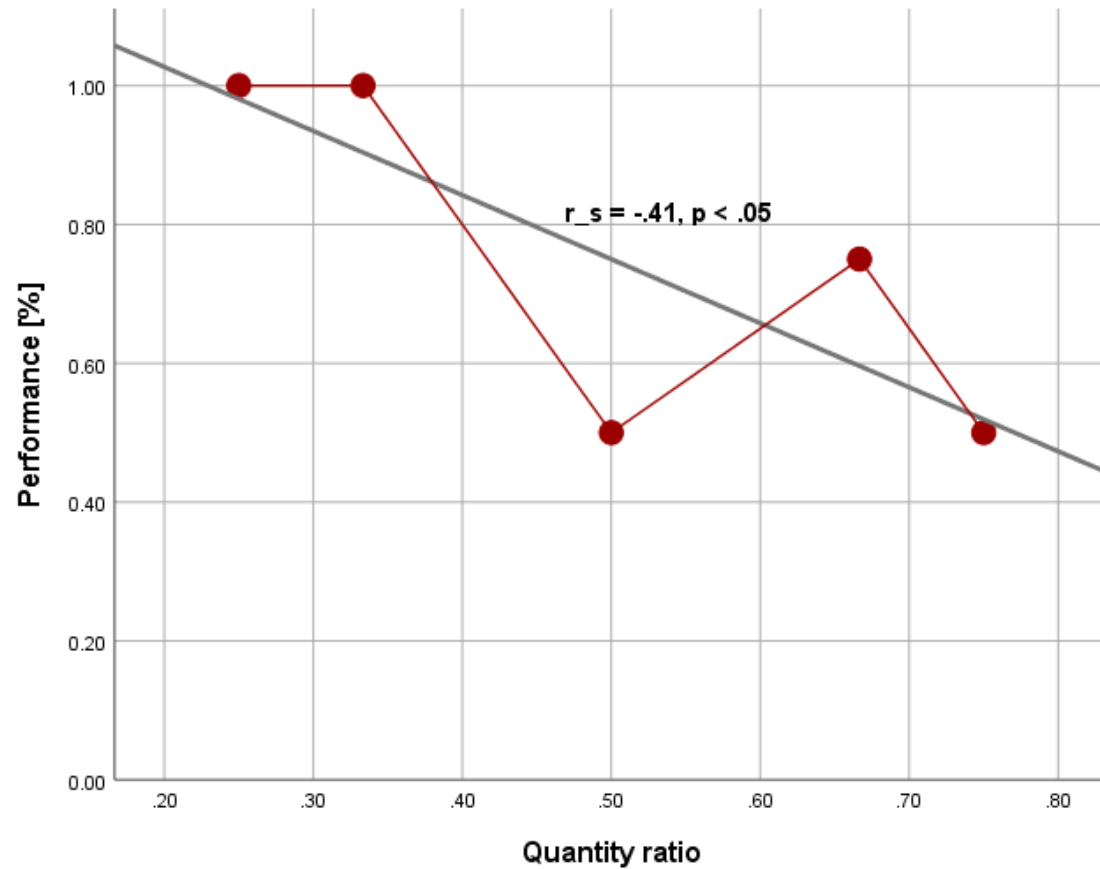
# Results: Chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes*)



Quantity ratio has a stronger influence on performance than quantity difference (see Weber's Law).

T<sub>r<sub>s</sub></sub> difference difference ns. for **numerosity**.

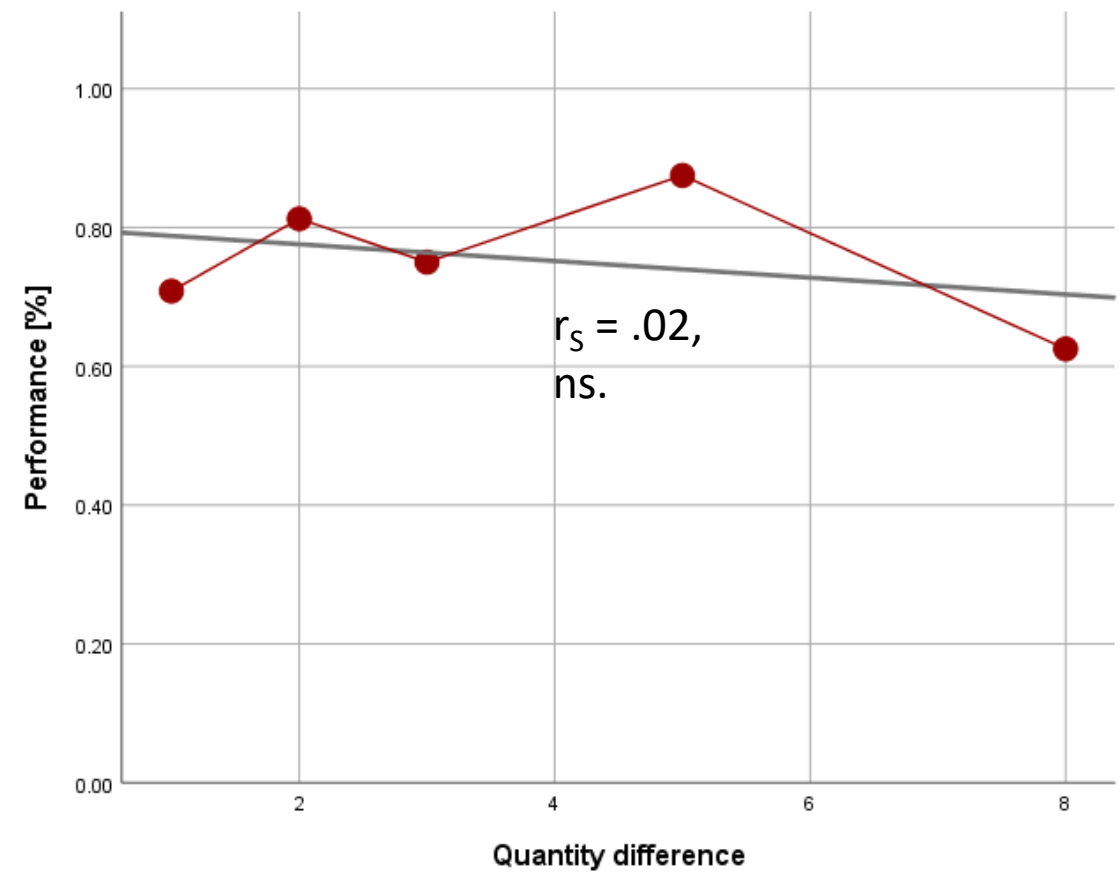
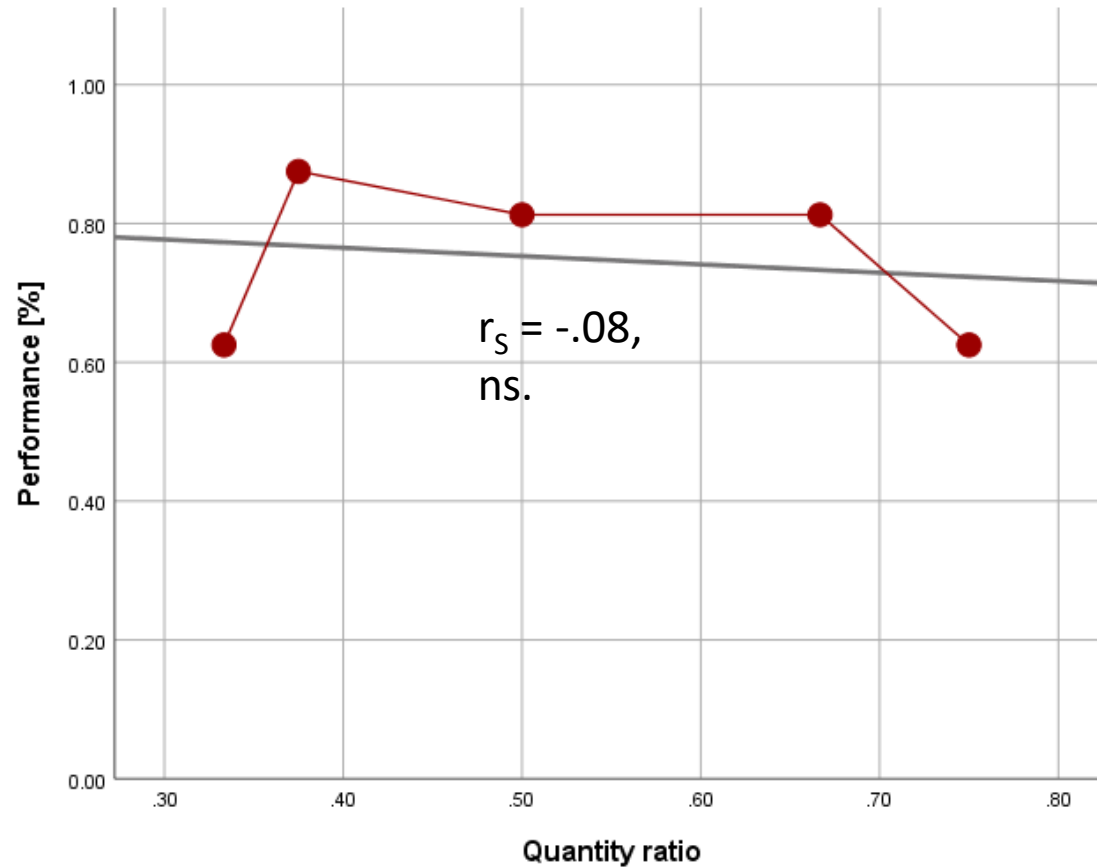
# Results: Chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes*)



Quantity ratio has a stronger influence on performance than quantity difference (see Weber's Law).

T\_  $r_s$  difference difference  $p < .05$  for size.

# Results: Chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes*)

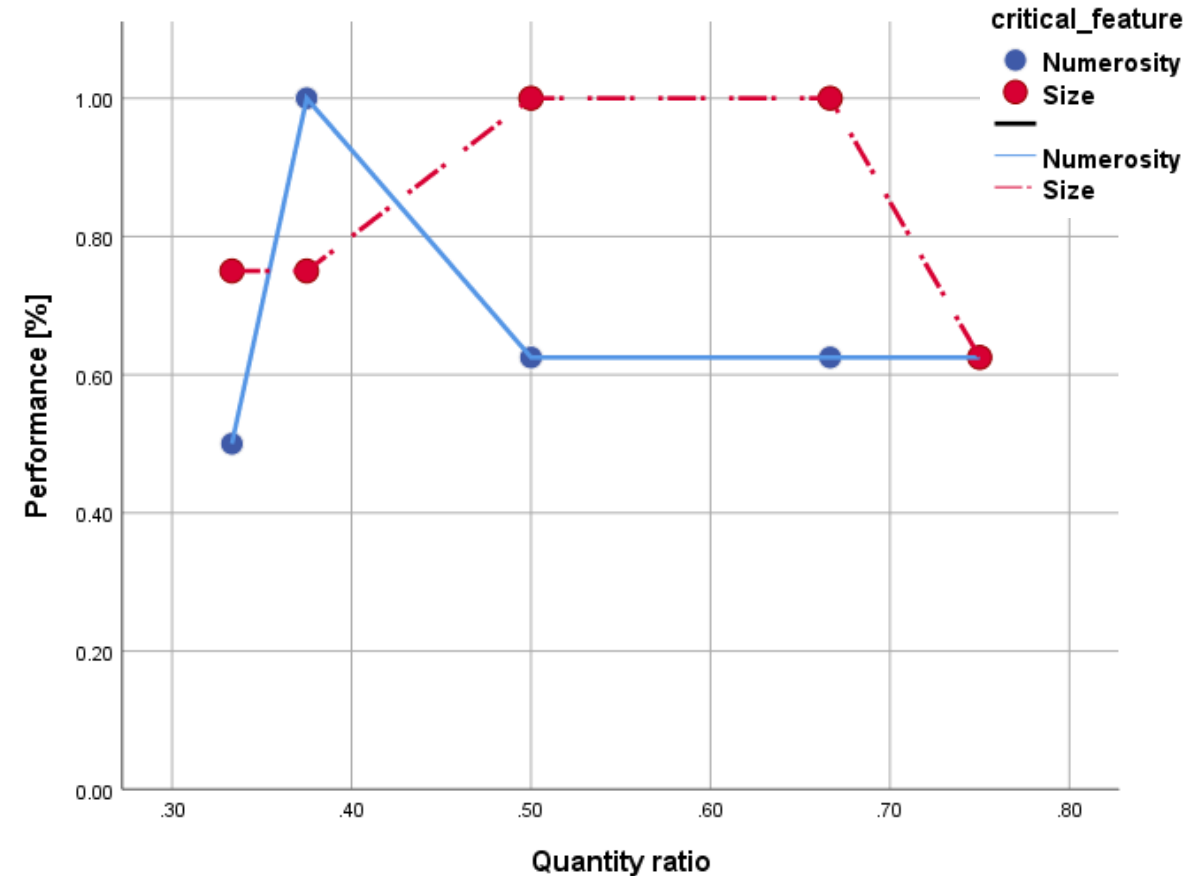
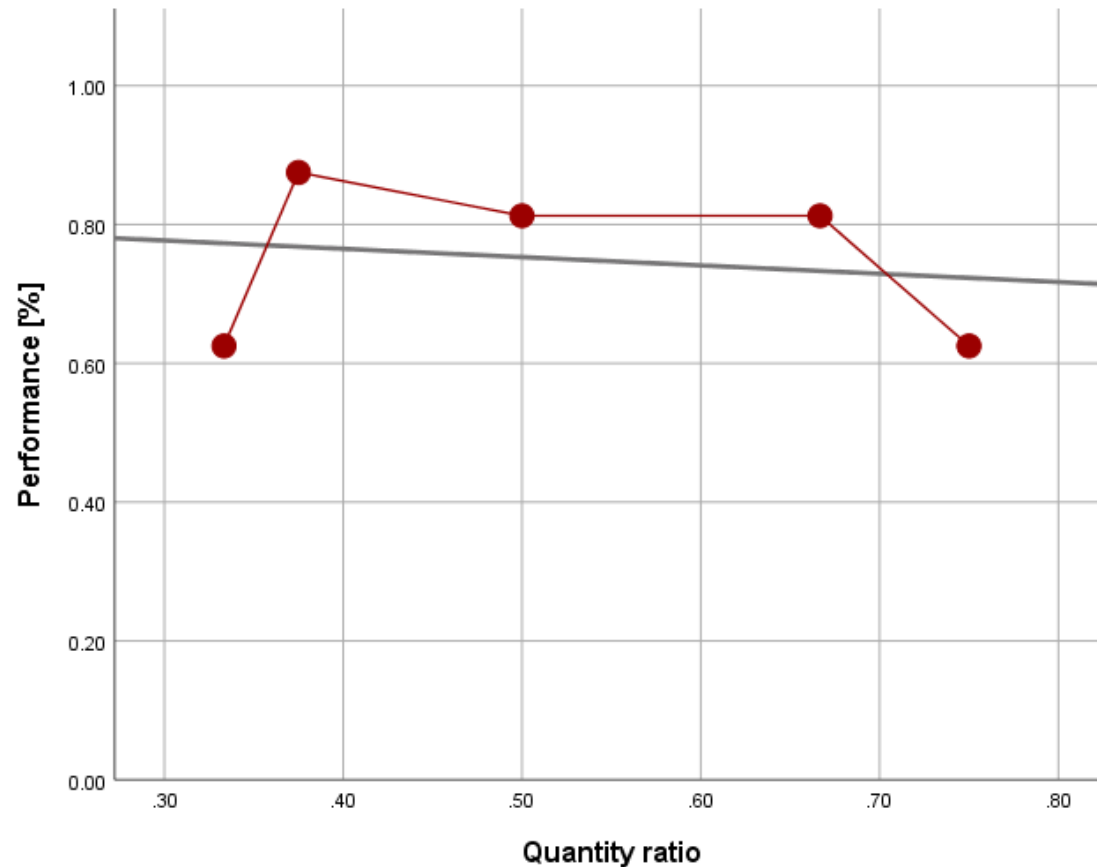


Performance in critical condition is not influenced by neither quantity ratio nor quantity difference.

Performance can be explained by size ratio ( $r_s = -.24$ ), indicating feature preference.



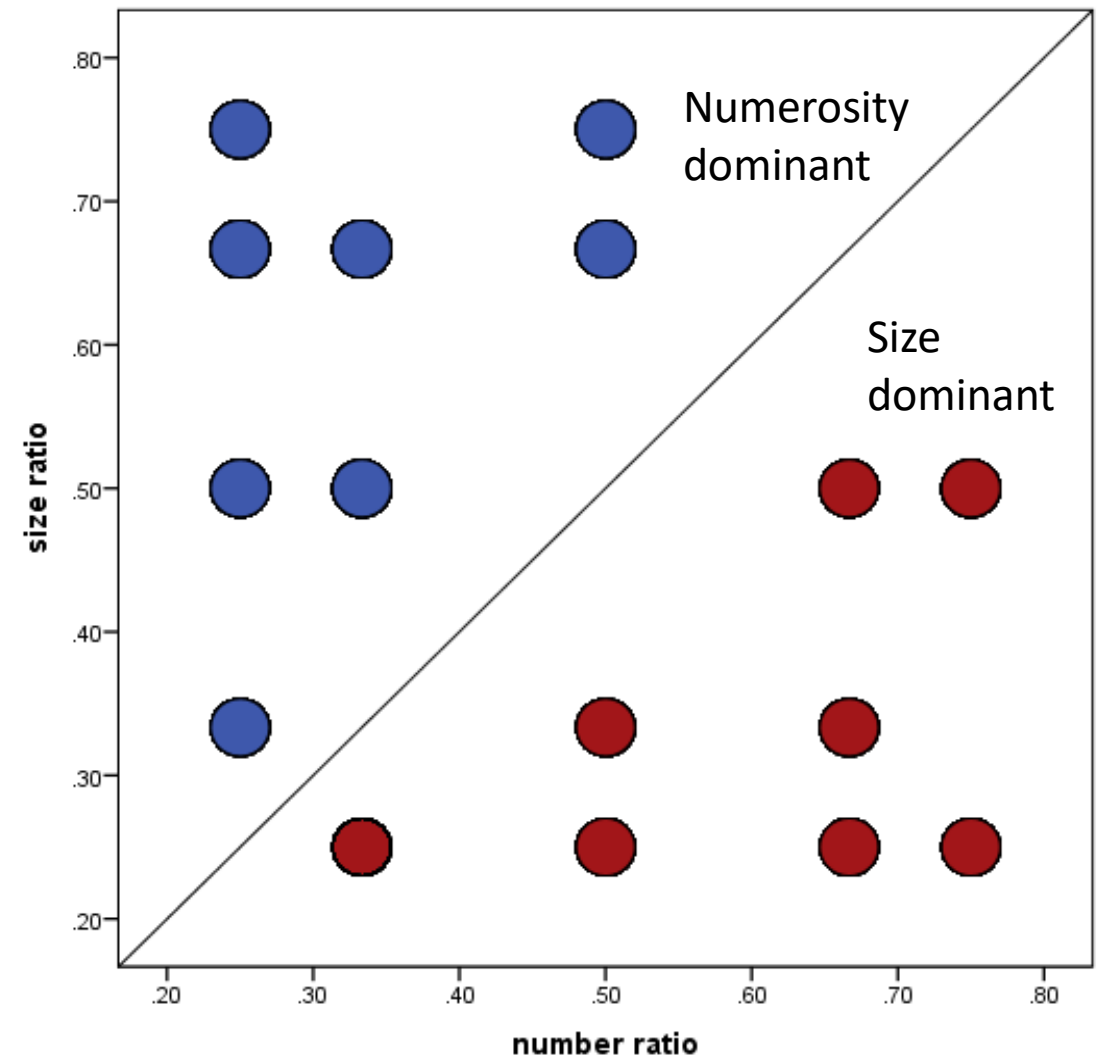
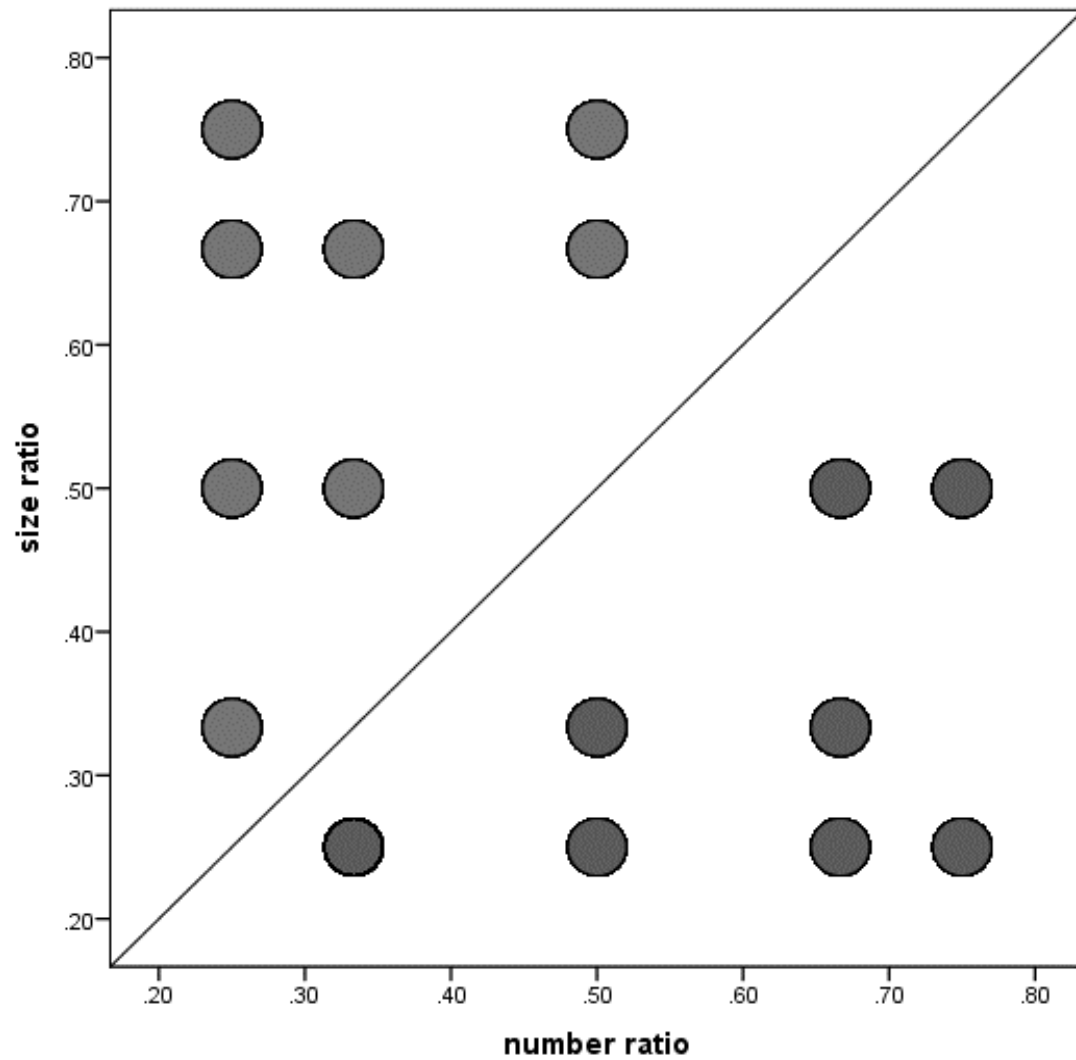
# Results: Chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes*)



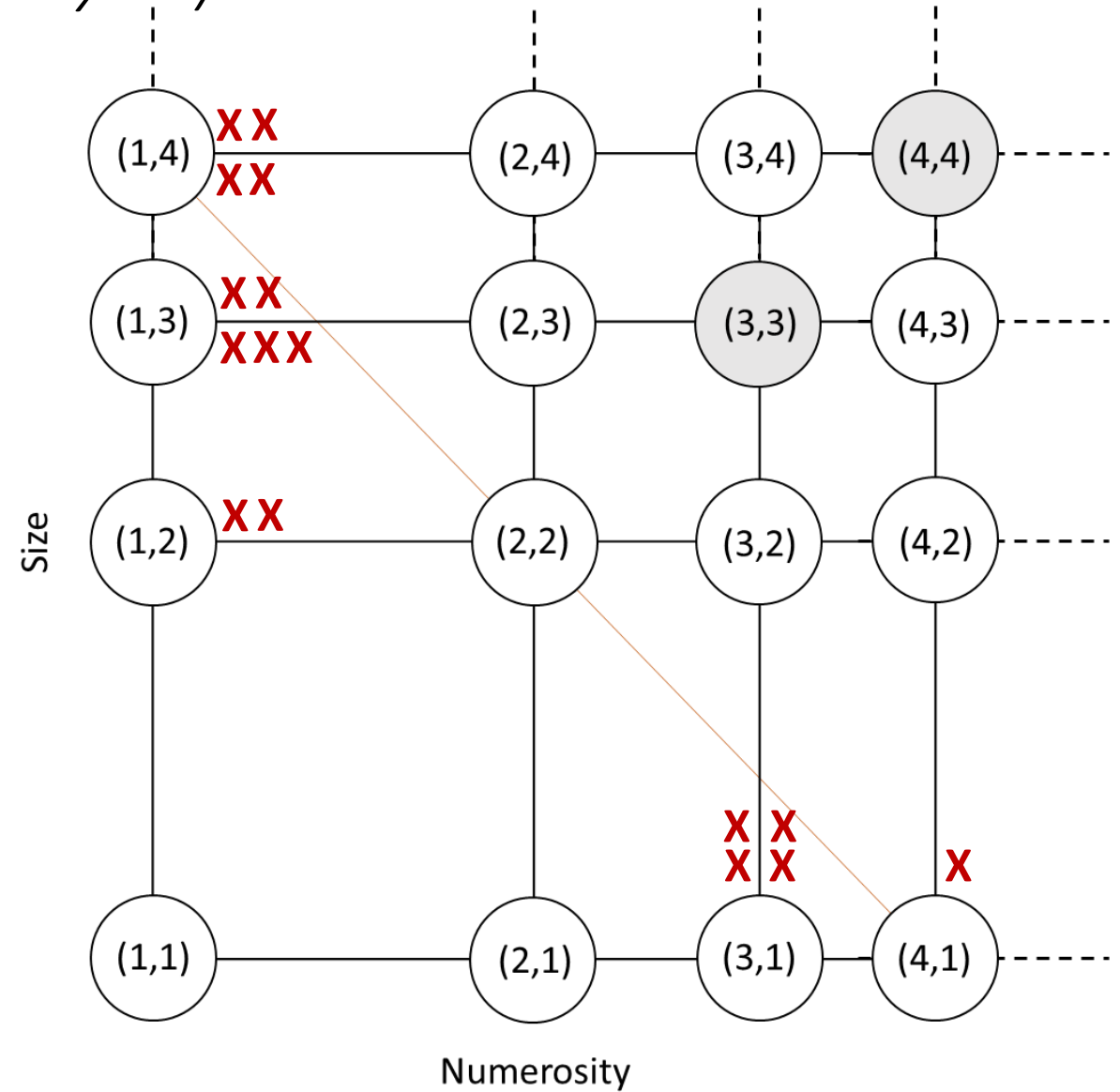
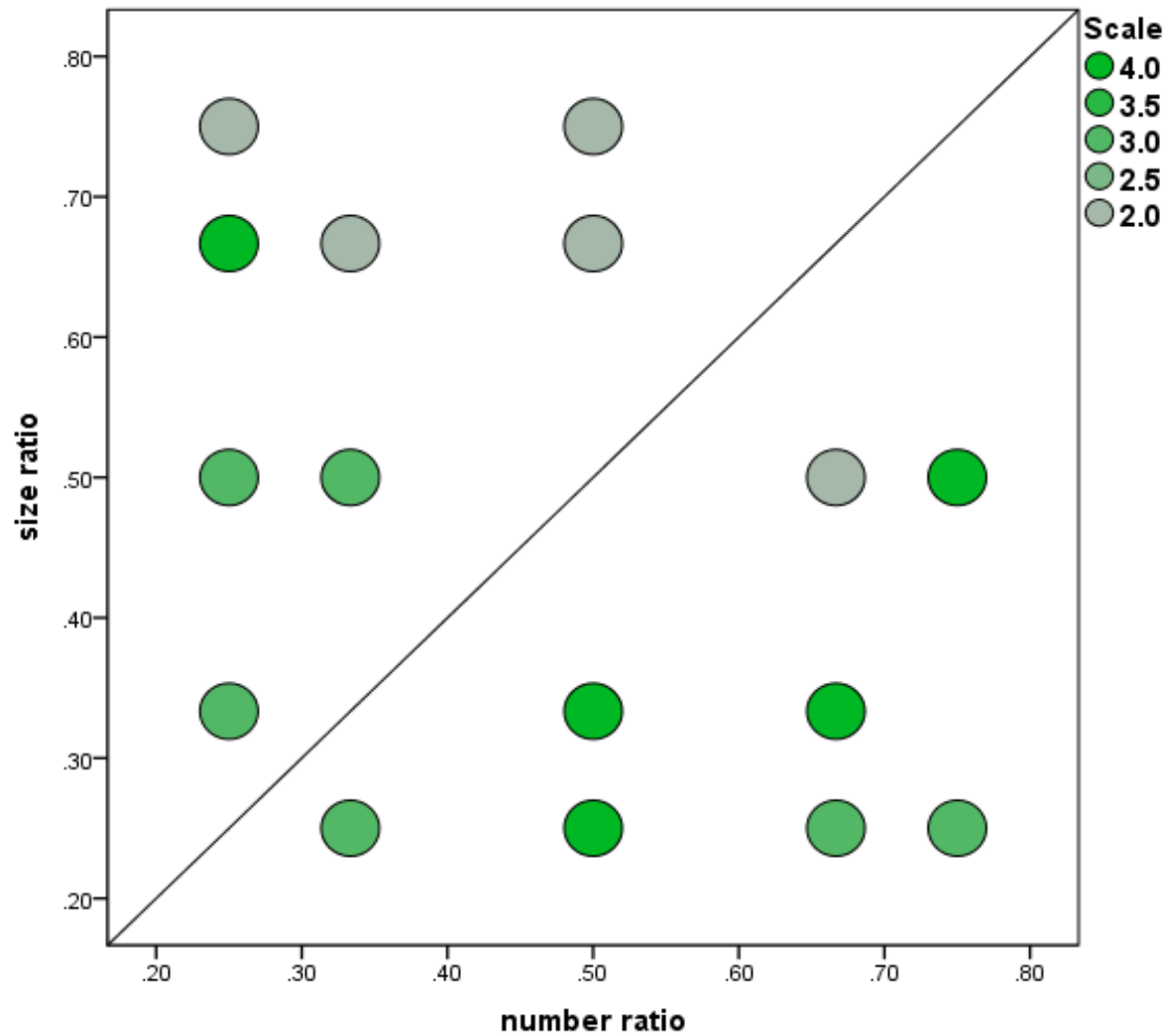
Separate analysis for dominant feature in critical condition indicates preference for size critical trials.

No significant difference in performance between dominant features (Wilcoxon  $T = 75$ ,  $p = .109$ ).

# Flashback: Critical condition

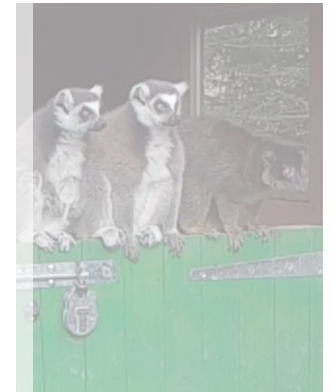
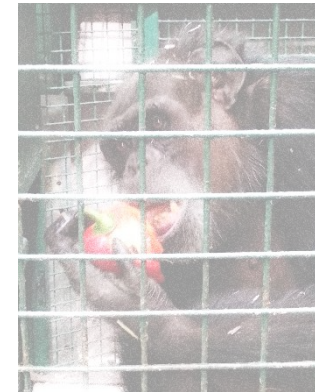


# Results: Chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes*)

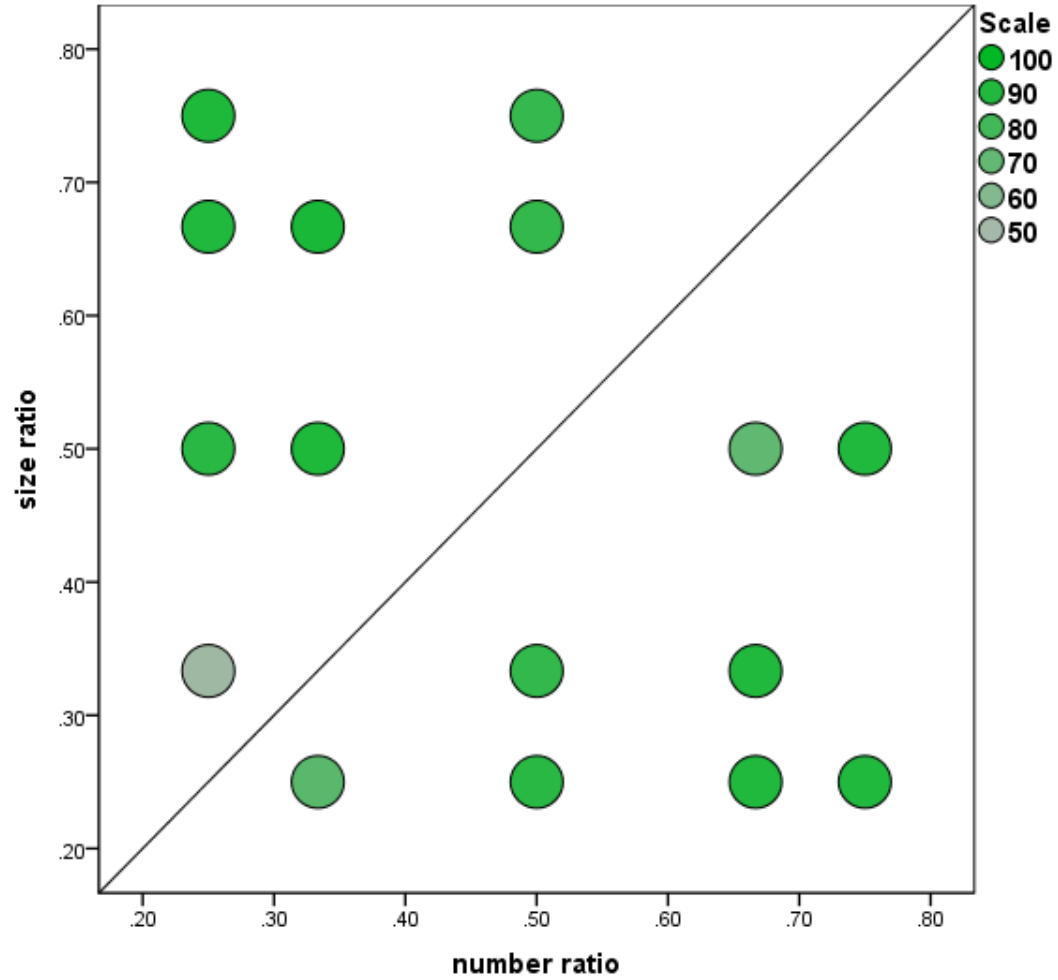


# Methods: Subjects

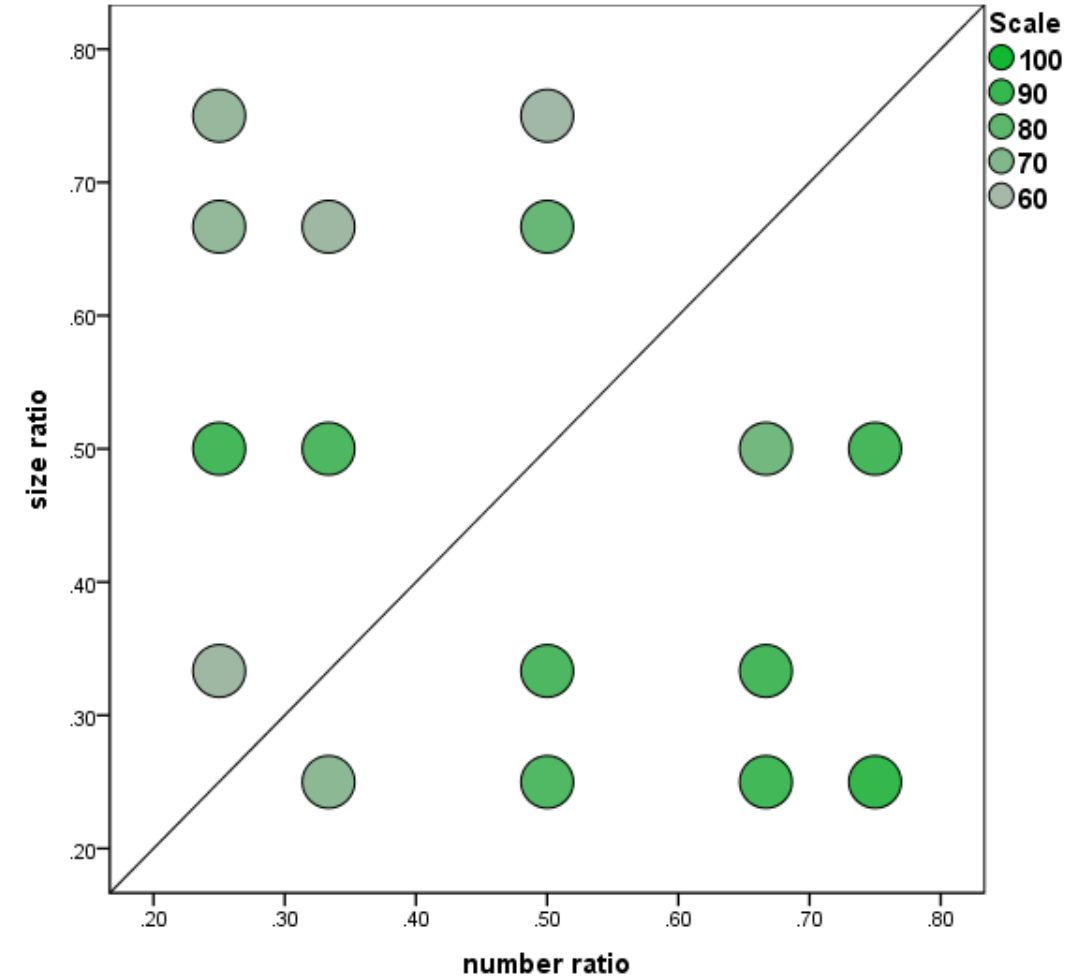
- **Undergraduate psychology students**  
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- Expected: **Four Ring-Tailed Lemurs** (2 f) and **two Brown Lemurs** (2 m) from a captive living group at the Blair Drummond Safari park



# Results: Undergraduates (*Homo sapiens*)

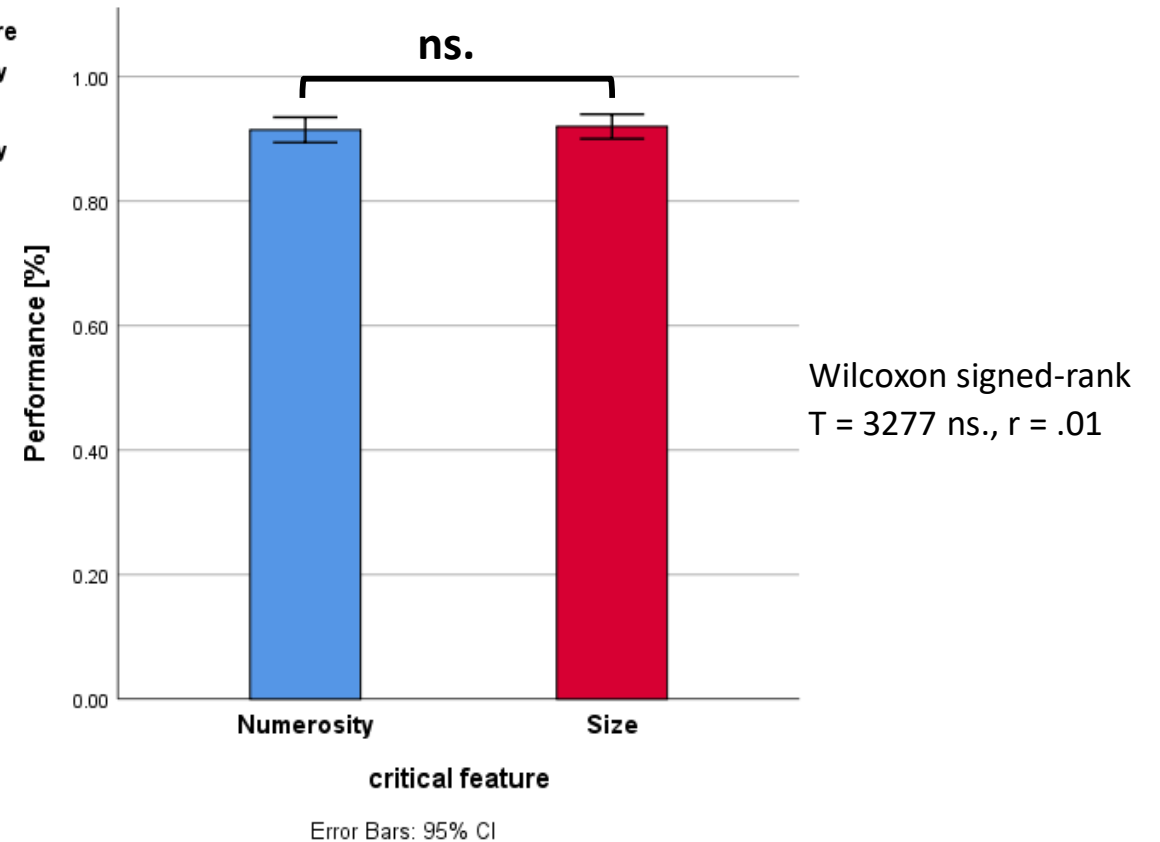
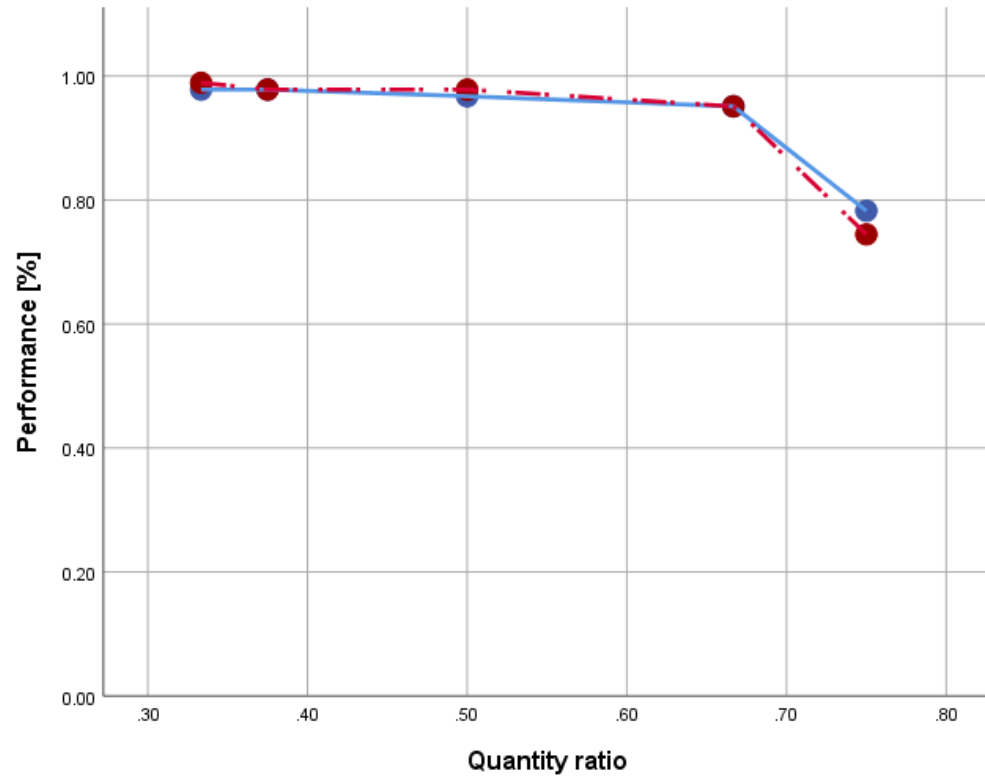


Visible



Covered

# Results: Undergraduates (*Homo sapiens*)

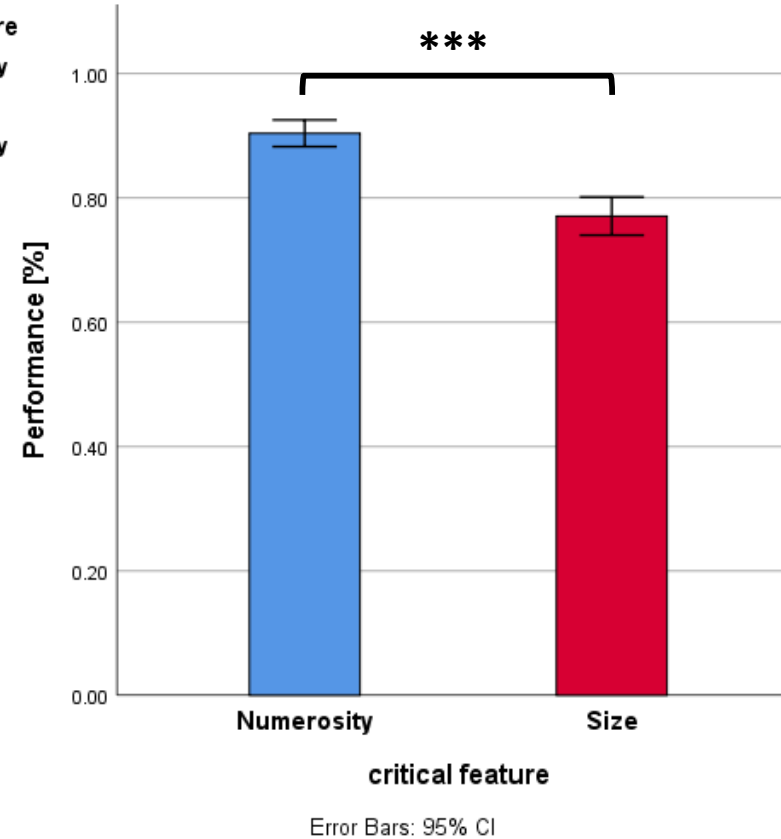
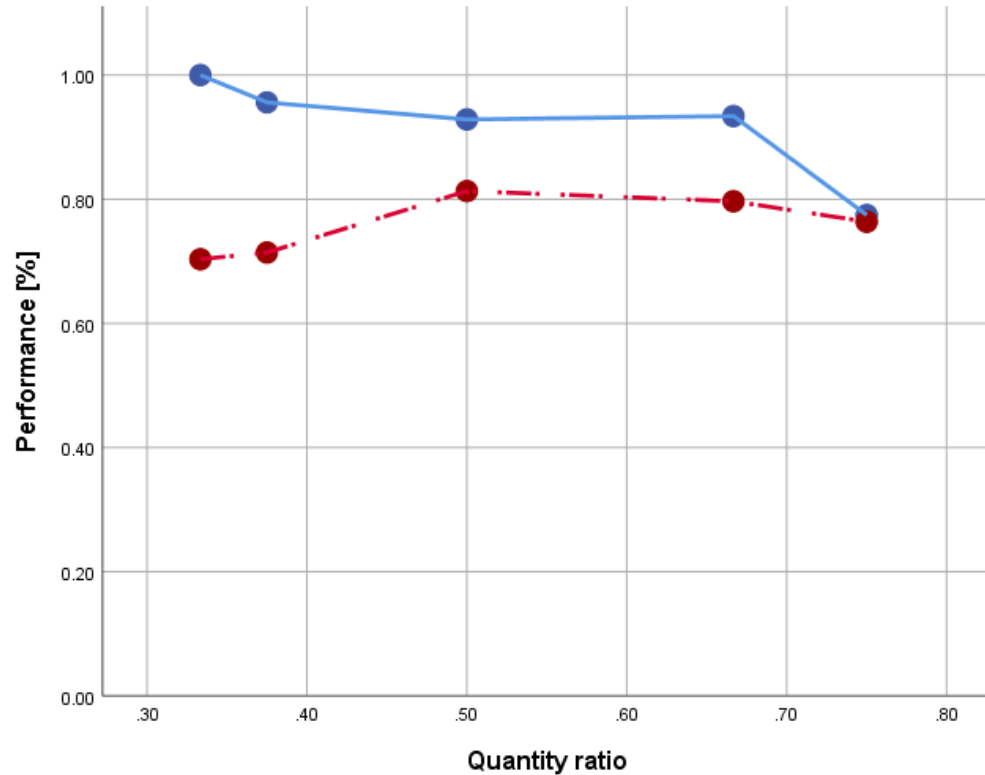


Visible numerosity critical trials correlated to quantity ( $r_s = -.30$ ) and size ratio ( $r_s = .26$ ), least to numerosity ( $r_s = .11$ ).

Visible size critical trials correlated to quantity ( $r_s = -.25$ ) and numerosity ratio ( $r_s = .15$ ), least to size ( $r_s = -.06$ ).



# Results: Undergraduates (*Homo sapiens*)

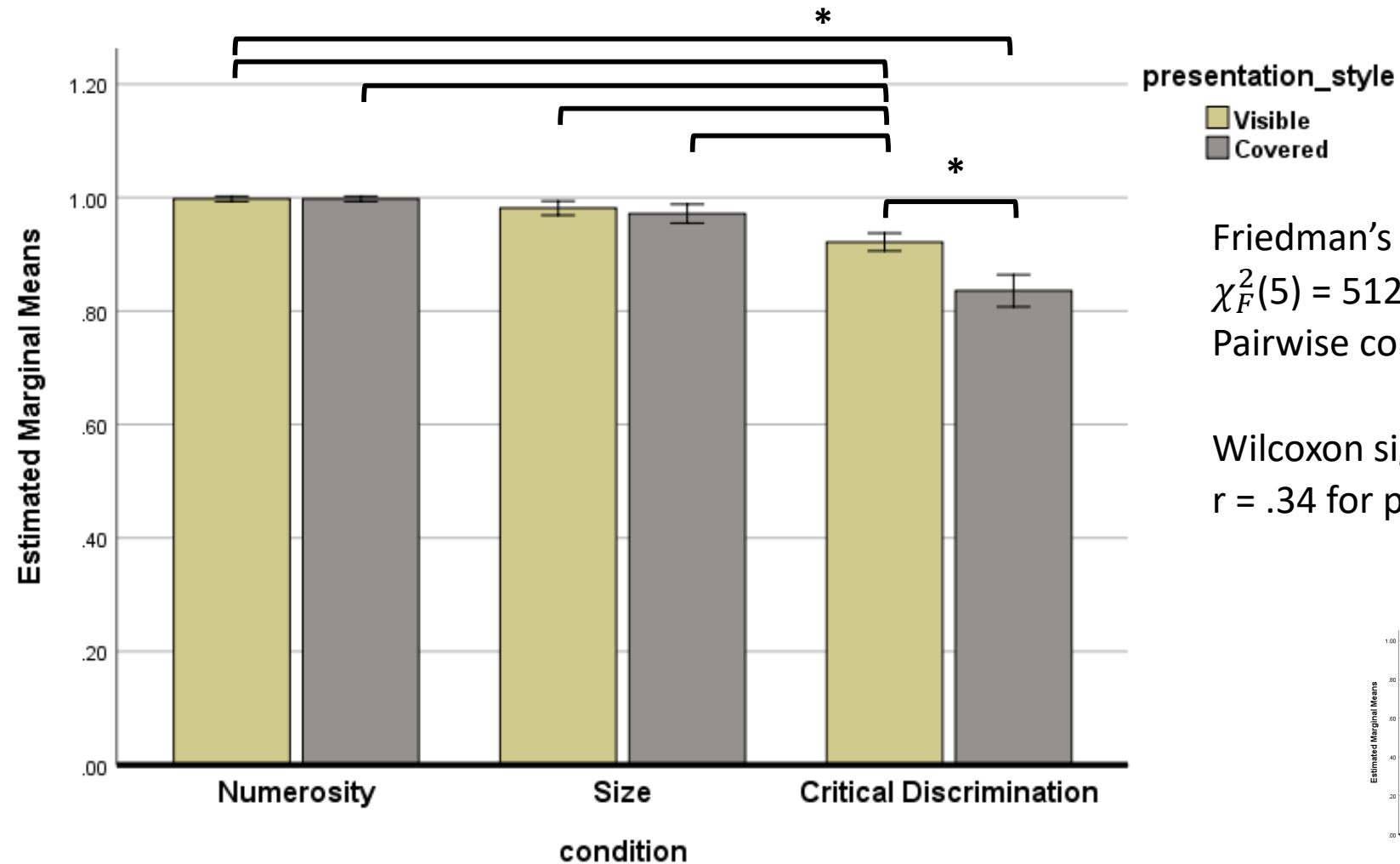


Wilcoxon signed-rank  
 $T = 6372$   $p < .001$ ,  $r = -.17$

Covered numerosity critical trials correlated to size ratio ( $r_s = -.12$ ), not to quantity nor numerosity.

Covered size critical trials correlated to quantity ( $r_s = -.23$ ) and numerosity ratio ( $r_s = .18$ ), least to size ( $r_s = -.01$ ).

# Results: Undergraduates (*Homo sapiens*)



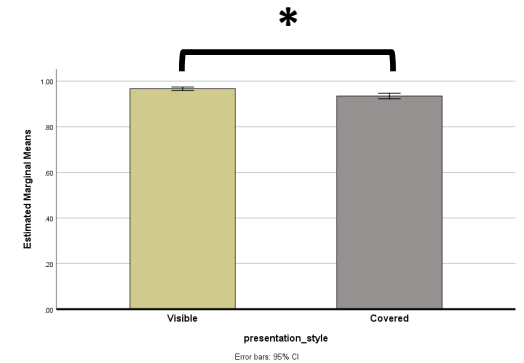
Error bars: 95% CI

Friedman's ANOVA by ranks;

$\chi^2_F(5) = 512.29, p < .001.$

Pairwise comparisons at  $p < .05$

Wilcoxon signed-rank  $T = 2130, p < .001,$   
 $r = .34$  for presentation style



# Research Question: Quantity Discrimination Strategies

## Rational Model:

$\text{Volume}_{\text{total}} = \text{Volume}_{\text{piece}} \times \text{Number}_{\text{pieces}}$   
(feature combination)

## Rational Model + Bias:

Feature salience bias on quantity proxy  
(weighted combination)

## Take-the-Best Model:

Single dominant feature as proxy  
(feature reduction)

## Take-the-Best Model + Bias:

Feature salience bias on feature dominance  
(feature preference )

		Q. ratio	N. ratio	S. ratio
Human	Visible	-.27	.09	.08
	N. critical	-.30	.11	.26
	S. critical	-.25	.15	ns.
	Covered	-.07	.19	-.18
	N. critical	ns.	ns.	-.12
	S. critical	-.23	.18	ns.
Chimp.	Visible	ns.	ns.	-.24
	N. critical	ns.	ns.	ns.
	S. critical	ns.	ns.	ns.

Note. All Spearman (Rank-) Correlations different from 0  
at a  $p < .01$  level.

# Outlook: Data collection Lemurs (*Eulemur fulvus*, *Lemur catta*)



*Eulemur fulvus*



*Lemur catta*



# Thank you for listening

MSc Supervisor:  
**Dr. Gema Martin Ordas**  
(University of Stirling)

Research Coordinator:  
**Alasdair Gillies**  
(Blair Drummond Safari Park)

Primate Society of Great Britain



**BLAIR DRUMMOND**  
**SAFARI**  
**AND ADVENTURE PARK**

