# Parameter Estimation

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#### A Brief Overview

This document supports a proposal to collect data in collaboration with the Psychological Science Accelerator. The purpose of this project is provide semantic priming data across many languages, inspired by the Semantic Priming Project (which is only in English; http://spp.montana.edu/; Hutchison et al., 2013). Big data sets are currency for those who do research in psycholinguistics, computational linguistics, natural language processing, and cognitive modeling. These data sets encourage controlled methodology and new scientific questions.

Cue words are defined as those shown first in a priming task, while target words are shown after the cue word. Semantic priming occurs when the target word is facilitated (i.e., responded to faster) in a related pair condition (DOCTOR-NURSE) versus an unrelated pair condition (TREE-NURSE). Therefore, in a priming task, one subject might see DOCTOR-NURSE, while another subject might see TREE-NURSE paired together. The two instances of NURSE will then be compared in an item analysis to see if the subjects who saw the related pairs responded to NURSE faster than the subjects who saw the unrelated pairs (however, some studies simply compare the average response latency of the unrelated condition to the related condition for a group level analysis).

One concern is how to estimate sample size necessary for any particular target word. The magic N=30 has often been used, in an attempt to at least meet some perceived minimum criteria for the central limit theorem. Sample size planning has been promoted when there is a specific parameter goal, such as power to find X effect at specified alpha levels, but no good method has been suggested for knowing when the data around a single word has "settled". In this power / sample size analysis, we will focus on the lexical decision task in particular, wherein participants are simply asked if a concept presented to them is a word (NURSE) or nonsense word (LURSE). The dependent variable in this study is response latency, and we will use the data from the English Lexicon Project (http://elexicon.wustl.edu/; Balota et al., 2007) and the Semantic Priming Project (http://spp.montana.edu/; Hutchison et al., 2013) as the metric for our analysis.

Herein, we will also use concepts in accuracy in parameter estimates (AIPE) to think about how we can have the confidence intervals be "sufficiently narrow" (Kelley, 2007; Kelley, Darku, & Chattopadhyay, 2018; Maxwell, Kelley, & Rausch, 2008). Usually, AIPE power/sample size analysis focuses on the standardized mean difference, but here we instead want to know that the estimation of the response latency does not vary by some particular amount. Therefore, it seems that we actually want to focus on the standard error of the response latency, as this determines the width of the confidence interval.

# Examining The English Lexicon Project (ELP)

The English Lexicon Project collected lexical decision (word or nonsense word) and naming (reading the word aloud) data for over 40,000 words. These data provide a good metric for the variability in base response latencies across words, which should allow for the estimation of the number of participants a study should use if the focus is on the standard error of response latencies.

Another issue to consider is that each participant likely has a somewhat arbitrary response latency factor. Usually, you would control for within-subject variance with a random intercept value in a multilevel type analysis, but another suggestion has been to standardize each participant's responses within a data collection session (Faust et al., 1999).

```
#read in the ELP data
ELPmaster <- read.csv("./ldt_raw/ELPDecisionData.csv")</pre>
#use the ave function to create a z-score of each participant
#they only did one session
ELPmaster$ZScore <- ave(ELPmaster$RT, #dependent variable
                        ELPmaster$Participant, #group variable
                        FUN = scale) #function, scale is z-scoring
#view the data
head(ELPmaster)
```

```
Trial Type Accuracy RT
                                Stimulus Participant
                                                         ZScore
## 1
       1 1
                     0 707
                                 bookie participant1 0.1030453
## 2
                     1 769
             0
                               gandbrake participant1 0.4896557
## 3
        3
            1
                     1 526 philosophical participant1 -1.0256075
## 4
        4
             Ω
                     0 510
                               umbeaten participant1 -1.1253779
## 5
        5
            1
                     1 512
                               belonging participant1 -1.1129066
## 6
        6
            1
                     1 626
                                lowliest participant1 -0.4020424
```

Let's first remove all the inaccurate responses (i.e., they decided word/nonsense word incorrectly) and non-words because they do not represent the target words we wish to collect.

```
#exclude 0 accuracy for incorrect
#exclude 0 type, which is non-words
#subset is like filter in tidyverse
ELPcorrect <- subset(ELPmaster, #data frame
                     Accuracy > 0 & Type > 0) #logical rules to subset by
#droplevels simply excludes the non-word labels that we just dropped
ELPcorrect$Stimulus <- droplevels(ELPcorrect$Stimulus)</pre>
```

What is the average standard error for our standardized response latencies? library(dplyr)

```
## Attaching package: 'dplyr'
## The following objects are masked from 'package:stats':
       filter, lag
## The following objects are masked from 'package:base':
##
##
      intersect, setdiff, setequal, union
##summarize the dataframe to see what the average SE is
summary_stats <- ELPcorrect %>% #data frame
 select(ZScore, Stimulus) %>% #pick the columns
 group_by(Stimulus) %>% #put together the stimuli
 summarize(SES = sd(ZScore)/sqrt(length(ZScore)), samplesize = length(ZScore)) #create SE and the sample size for below
##give descriptives of the SEs
psych::describe(summary_stats$SES)
              n mean sd median trimmed mad min max range skew kurtosis
     vars
```

```
## X1 1 40455 0.16 0.1 0.14 0.15 0.06 0.01 3.33 3.32 4.71
```

se

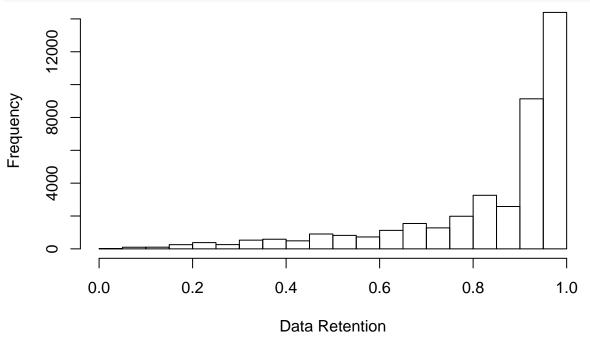
From this output, we can see that the average and median SE hover around 0.14 to 0.16.

What is the average sample size after data loss due to incorrect answers? Note that there are several real words that only had one participant answer correctly, so they are included in the original sample sizes below, but not in the SE estimate. This explains why total n increases between the two code sections here.

```
##figure out the original sample sizes
original_SS <- ELPmaster %>% #data frame
 count(Stimulus) #count up the sample size
##add the original sample size to the data frame
summary_stats <- merge(summary_stats, original_SS, by = "Stimulus")</pre>
##original sample size average
psych::describe(summary stats$n)
              n mean sd median trimmed mad min max range skew kurtosis
     vars
## X1 1 40472 32.69 0.63
                                                         6 -0.91
                             33 32.74 0 29 35
                                                                     1.45
##
```

```
## X1 0
\#\#reduced\ sample\ size
psych::describe(summary_stats$samplesize)
                        sd median trimmed mad min max range
## X1
        1 40472 27.41 6.43
                               30
                                   28.64 2.97
                                                1 35
                                                          34 -1.66
##
       se
## X1 0.03
##percent retained
psych::describe(summary_stats$samplesize/summary_stats$n)
              n mean sd median trimmed mad min max range skew kurtosis
     vars
## X1
        1 40472 0.84 0.2 0.91
                                   0.88 0.09 0.03
                                                  1 0.97 -1.68
                                                                     2.25
##
     se
## X1 0
```

We can see that on average, the ELP usually contained  $\sim 32$  participants per word. The reduced sample size was about  $\sim 27$  per word with an average retention rate of 84%. There are many weird words in the ELP (see the histogram of retention rates below, creating a skewed distribution), so the median retention rate might be a better estimation of data loss at  $\sim .91$ .



Let's look at only the data above the magic N=30 for the best estimate of what level of SE to use as our point at which we would consider the parameter accurate:

```
##average SE for words with at least n = 30
summary_stats %>% #data frame
filter(samplesize >=30) %>% #filter out lower sample sizes
summarize(avgSES = mean(SES)) #create the mean
```

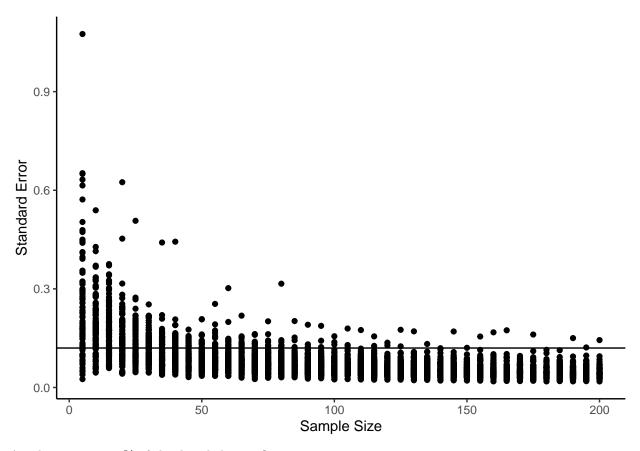
## avgSES ## 1 0.1229559

So, potentially, we could set the SE of the ZS core for an item to .12 as our metric of when to stop collecting data.

If I assume these data to be representative, what actual sample size might approximate SE = 0.12?

```
##pick 100 random words with sample sizes above 30
targets <- summary_stats %>% #data frame
filter(samplesize >=30) %>% #filter out sample sizes
select(Stimulus) %>% #select only stimuli
```

```
sample_n(100) %>% #get 100
  pull(Stimulus) #return a vector
targets <- as.character(targets)</pre>
##this section creates a sequence of sample sizes to estimate at
samplesize_values <- seq(5, 200, 5)</pre>
#create a blank table for us to save the values in
sim_table <- matrix(NA, nrow = length(samplesize_values), ncol = length(targets))</pre>
#create column names based on the current targets
colnames(sim_table) <- targets</pre>
#make it a data frame
sim_table <- as.data.frame(sim_table)</pre>
#add those sample size values
sim_table$sample_size <- samplesize_values
##loop over all the target words randomly selected
for (i in 1:length(targets)){
  ##loop over sample sizes
  for (q in 1:length(samplesize_values)){
    ##temporarily save a data frame of Zscores temp <- ELPcorrect \%>% #data frame
      filter(Stimulus == targets[i]) %>% #pick rows that are the current target word
      sample_n(samplesize_values[q], replace = T) %>% #select sample size number of rows
      pull(ZScore)
    #put that in the table
    #find the sample size row and column we are working with #calculate SE sd/sqrt(n)
    sim_table[sim_table$sample_size == samplesize_values[q], targets[i]] <- sd(temp)/sqrt(length(temp))</pre>
    }
```



At what point is 80% of the data below .12?

```
##calculate the percent below .12
sim_table_long %>% #data frame
group_by(sample_size) %>% #group by sample size
summarize(Percent_Below = sum(value<=.12)) %>% #is it less than .12
print(n = nrow(.))
```

```
## # A tibble: 40 x 2
##
           sample_size Percent_Below
##
                       -
<dbl>
                                                <int>
## 1
## 2
## 3
## 4
## 6
## 6
## 10
## 11
## 12
## 13
## 15
## 16
## 17
## 18
## 19
## 20
## 21
## 23
## 24
## 25
                             5
                                                     21
                            10
                                                      18
                            15
                                                      27
                            20
                                                      36
                                                     52
53
                            25
                            30
                                                     62
72
73
                            35
                           40
45
                           50
55
60
65
70
75
80
85
                                                     85
                                                     84
89
                                                     86
                                                     93
92
93
95
97
96
97
97
                          90
95
100
105
                          110
                                                     98
98
98
                          115
                          120
                          125
## 26
                          130
                                                     99
## 27
                          135
                                                     99
## 28
                          140
                                                    100
## 29
                          145
                                                     99
## 30
                                                      99
                          150
```

```
## 31
               155
                                99
## 32
               160
                                99
## 33
               165
                                99
## 34
               170
                               100
## 35
               175
                                99
## 36
               180
                               100
               185
                               100
## 37
## 38
               190
                                99
## 39
               195
                                99
## 40
               200
                                99
```

Looks like the answer is  $\sim 50$  give or take different variations of this random sampling. This estimate would be the minimum sample size per word.

*Note*: I took several runs of this simulation and the one below for the estimates listed - they may not perfectly match the current compiled version of this document, but are representative of the larger set of values I estimated.

## Examining The Semantic Priming Project (SPP)

In the SPP, participants were given a lexical decision task with a priming cue word first. So, the task is the same as the ELP, however, they first saw a prime word, then made the lexical decision on the target word. The sample size of target words is 1661. We are using the already z-scored data for the response latencies. In the SPP, they provide an item level analysis of the average z-score priming (i.e., average z-score for the target word in the related minus unrelated condition). However, that data does not allow you to estimate when the priming estimate would be stable, as it's just one value for each prime-target pair. As mentioned in the full proposal, we would expect priming to be variable - it should be predicted by other psycholinguistic variables. Therefore, we should aim to create stable estimates for the z-scored response latencies in both the related and unrelated conditions. This aim would allow us to know that at least the response latencies are reliable, and variability in the final subtracted priming can be investigated for predictors.

What is the average SE for our standardized response latencies for words in a priming task (rather than no priming lexical decision)?

```
##summarize the dataframe to see what the average SE is
summary_stats <- SPPcorrect %>% #data frame
select(Ztarget.RT, target) %>% #pick the columns
group_by(target) %>% #put together the stimuli
summarize(SES = sd(Ztarget.RT)/sqrt(length(Ztarget.RT)), samplesize = length(Ztarget.RT)) #create SE and the sample size for below
##give descriptives of the SEs
psych::describe(summary_stats$SES)

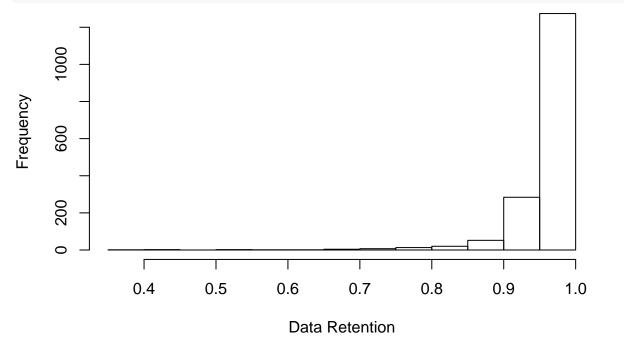
## vars n mean sd median trimmed mad min max range skew kurtosis
## X1 1 1661 0.06 0.01 0.06 0.06 0.01 0.04 0.16 0.12 2.19 11.4
## se
## X1 0
```

In this study, they used a smaller subset of words (1661) as compared to the much larger set of English in ELP (40,000+). These words are likely to be similar to the words chosen for the study - because they are mostly somewhat frequent nouns, the variability in response latency is less than above. Here, we see it's about 0.06 for the standard error.

What is the average sample size after data loss due to incorrect answers?

```
\textit{\#\#figure out the original sample sizes}
original_SS <- SPPmaster %>% #data frame
  count(target) #count up the sample size
##add the original sample size to the data frame
summary_stats <- merge(summary_stats, original_SS, by = "target")</pre>
##original sample size average
psych::describe(summary_stats$n)
            n mean sd median trimmed mad min max range skew kurtosis
## X1
      1 1661 255.2 1.36
                          255 255.26 1.48 251 258
                                                       7 -0.32
##
## X1 0.03
##reduced sample size
psych::describe(summary_stats$samplesize)
                        sd median trimmed mad min max range skew kurtosis
                mean
156 -5.34
                                                                   41.78
##
       se
## X1 0.31
##percent retained
psych::describe(summary_stats$samplesize/summary_stats$n)
            n mean
                     sd median trimmed mad min max range skew kurtosis
## X1
       1 1661 0.96 0.05 0.97
                                 0.97 0.02 0.39
                                               1 0.61 -5.43
## X1 O
```

The original sample sizes are approximately ~256 participants, which is n=32 for each of the eight possible conditions in the study. We are not going to use those conditions, so the entire data was collapsed for this analysis. The data retention is much better in this analysis at around 96%-97%, likely because the dataset includes fewer "weird" words.



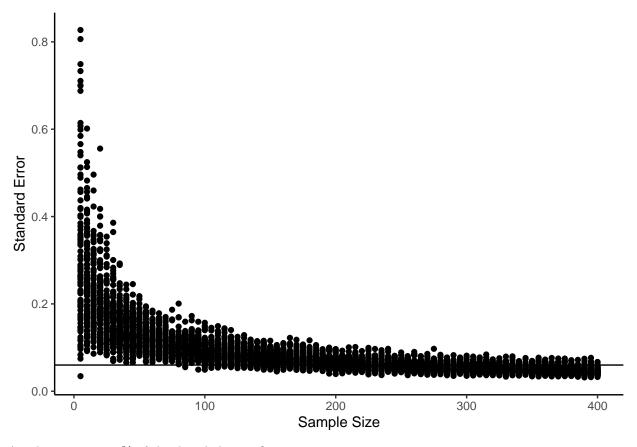
If I assume these data to be representative, what actual sample size would result in a SE = 0.06?

```
##pick 100 random words as all sample sizes are above 30
targets <- summary_stats %>% #data frame
select(target) %>% #select only stimuli
sample_n(100) %>% #get 100
pull(target) #make it a vector
targets <- as.character(targets)
```

```
##this section creates a sequence of sample sizes to estimate at
#5, 10, 15, etc.
samplesize_values <- seq(5, 400, 5)</pre>
#create a blank table for us to save the values in
#create column names based on the current targets

#create column names based on the current targets
colnames(sim_table) <- targets</pre>
#make it a data frame
sim_table <- as.data.frame(sim_table)</pre>
#add those sample size values
sim_table$sample_size <- samplesize_values
##loop over all the target words randomly selected
for (i in 1:length(targets)){
  ##loop over sample sizes
for (q in 1:length(samplesize_values)){
     ##temporarily save a data frame of Zscores
     temp <- SPPcorrect %>% #data frame
filter(target == targets[i]) %>% #pick rows that are the current target word
sample_n(samplesize_values[q], replace = T) %>% #select sample size number of rows
        pull(Ztarget.RT)
     #put that in the table
#find the sample size row and column we are working with
#calculate SE sd/sqrt(n)
     sim_table[sim_table$sample_size == samplesize_values[q], targets[i]] <- sd(temp)/sqrt(length(temp))</pre>
}
```

#### A graph of this data:



At what point is 80% of the data below .06?

```
##calculate the percent below .06
sim_table_long2 %>% #data frame
group_by(sample_size) %>% #group by sample size
summarize(Percent_Below = sum(value<=.06)) %>% #is it less than .06
print(n = nrow(.))
```

```
## # A tibble: 80 x 2
##
           sample_size Percent_Below
##
                     -
<dbl>
                                             <int>
##
                           5
## 2
## 6
## 6
## 7
## 8
## 10
## 11
## 12
## 13
## 14
## 16
## 17
## 18
## 20
## 21
## 22
## 23
## 25
                          10
                                                   0
                          15
                                                   20
                          25
                          30
                          35
                         40
45
                          50
                         55
60
65
70
75
80
85
                        90
95
100
105
                        110
                        115
                        120
                        125
## 26
                        130
## 27
                        135
## 28
                        140
## 29
                        145
                                                  13
## 30
                                                  11
                        150
```

```
155
## 31
                               15
## 32
              160
## 33
              165
                               10
## 34
              170
                              17
## 35
              175
                              23
## 36
              180
                              25
              185
                              27
## 37
## 38
              190
                              24
## 39
              195
                               29
## 40
                              35
              200
## 41
              205
                              46
## 42
              210
                              33
## 43
              215
                              43
## 44
                              43
              220
## 45
                              50
              225
## 46
              230
                              53
## 47
              235
                              51
## 48
              240
                              56
## 49
              245
                              58
## 50
              250
                              63
## 51
              255
                              61
## 52
              260
                              66
## 53
              265
                              63
## 54
              270
                              72
## 55
              275
                              71
## 56
              280
                              76
## 57
              285
                              70
## 58
              290
                              80
## 59
              295
                              75
## 60
              300
                              82
## 61
              305
                              76
## 62
              310
                              85
## 63
              315
## 64
              320
## 65
              325
## 66
              330
                              89
## 67
              335
## 68
              340
## 69
              345
## 70
              350
              360
              370
## 78
                               96
## 79
              395
                              94
```

Here the required number of participants per word would be  $\sim$ 320 participants.

### **Summary and Suggestions**

In each session, participants would judge multiple words. In the SPP, each person judged 800 words per session, while in the ELP included 1,200 words per session. This facet should be considering for timing of the experiment, especially fatigue.

### Estimation formulas:

```
##how many words per session
##go a little less since it's a boring task
words_per_session <- 600

##words are assigned 25% related, 25% unrelated, 50% nonwords
##this keeps relatedness to 50/50 for real words, which is what SPP did
##also keeps yes/no lexical decision to 50/50
##also remember you will rate the prime word but it doesn't count
usable_words_per_session <- words_per_session * .50 / 2

##each word has to be collected in both unrelated and related conditions
conditions <- 2

##estimated participants from above
lower_est <- 50
```

```
upper_est <- 320
##data loss conservative estimate from ELP, since online studies may have more
data_loss <- .9
##target word goal
#number of targets we wish to achieve
number_of_targets <- 1000</pre>
##total estimated participants
((1/data_loss) * #incorporate data loss
 lower_est * #number of participants needed for each word
  conditions * #number of conditions each word has to appear in
 number_of_targets) / #number of total words
 usable_words_per_session
## [1] 740.7407
##total estimated participants
((1/data_loss) * #incorporate data loss
  upper_est * #number of participants needed for each word
 conditions * #number of conditions each word has to appear in number_of_targets) / #number of total words
 usable_words_per_session
```

## [1] 4740.741

The formula works as follows: We will incorporate expected data loss by multiplying by a percent increase one would need to accommodate that loss. This score is then multiplied by the estimates of persons per word for accuracy in parameter estimation. Each word must be seen in the related and unrelated condition, and these are not repeated within-subjects, therefore, we will double the estimate for the two conditions. This number is then multiplied by a desired number of target words, and 1000 words is the goal for this study. That value is divided by the useable number of words per session from a participant. In priming studies, you need to control for relatedness proprotions by keeping a balance of unrelated and related target words, as well as the balance of yes/no answers for the lexical decision task. Therefore, they are allocated at 25% for each of the real words (related/unrelated) and 50% for non-words. Therefore, each participant only provides 50% useable words, which is then further divided by two to only capture target words (i.e., ignoring prime words).

The estimates indicate that between 741 and 4741 participants would be necessary to gather 1000 real word targets in related and unrelated conditions for the study. This value would be the target sample size for each of the languages in the study.

# Stopping Procedure

Because the variability of the sample size is quite large, we will employ a stopping procedure to ensure participant time and effort is maximized, and data collection is minimized. The minimum sample size will be 50 participants per concept or 741 total participants. After 50 participants, each concept will be examined for standard error, and data collection for that concept will be stopped when the standard error reaches an average of the two metrics found in this exploration (0.06, 0.12) or 0.09. This process will be automated online and checked in a daily subroutine, and words that meet the stopping rule criteria will be removed from further data collection. From the current simulations, this approximates to 100 to 150 participants per word, and 1482 to 2223 participants per language total. The maximum number of participants per word will be n=320 from estimations above.

```
##calculate the percent below .09
sim_table_long %>% #data frame
group_by(sample_size) %>% #group by sample size
summarize(Percent_Below = sum(value<=.09)) %>% #is it less than .09
print(n = nrow(.))
```

```
## # A tibble: 40 x 2
      sample_size Percent_Below
##
##
            <dbl>
                           <int>
                             10
   1
                5
##
               10
##
   2
                              11
## 3
               15
                              11
##
   4
               20
                              16
   5
```

```
## 6
## 7
                    30
                                       25
                    35
                                       38
##
     8
                    40
                                       45
## 9
                    45
                                       48
## 10
                    50
                                       54
## 11
                    55
                                       58
## 12
                    60
                                       66
                    65
## 13
                                       68
                                      70
72
## 14
                    70
## 15
                    75
## 16
                    80
                                       73
## 17
                    85
                                       80
## 18
                    90
                                       79
## 19
## 20
                    95
                                      83
85
                   100
## 21
                  105
                                       90
## 22
## 23
                                      88
91
                  110
                  115
## 24
## 25
                   120
                                       90
                                       93
                  125
## 26
                   130
                                       91
## 27
                                       95
                   135
                   140
## 28
                                       96
## 29
                  145
                                       95
## 30
                   150
                                       98
## 31
                                       96
                  155
## 32
                   160
                                       95
## 33
                  165
                                       95
## 34
                   170
                                       98
## 35
                   175
                                       97
## 36
                   180
                                       98
## 37
                   185
                                       98
## 38
                   190
                                       98
## 39
                   195
                                       98
## 40
                   200
                                       98
##calculate the percent below .09
sim_table_long2 %>%, #data frame
group_by(sample_size) %>%, #group by sample size
summarize(Percent_Below = sum(value<=.09)) %>% #is it less than .09
print(n = nrow(.))
```

```
## 39
              195
                              95
## 40
              200
                              97
## 41
              205
                              99
## 42
              210
                              98
## 43
              215
                              99
## 44
              220
                              99
## 45
              225
                              97
## 46
              230
                              99
              235
## 47
                              99
## 48
              240
                              98
## 49
              245
                             100
## 50
              250
                             100
              255
## 51
                             100
## 52
              260
                              99
## 53
              265
                             100
## 54
              270
                             100
              275
## 55
                              99
## 56
              280
                             100
## 57
              285
                             100
## 58
              290
                             100
## 59
              295
                             100
## 60
              300
                             100
## 61
              305
                             100
## 62
              310
                             100
## 63
              315
                             100
## 64
              320
                             100
## 65
              325
                             100
## 66
              330
                             100
## 67
              335
                             100
## 68
              340
                             100
## 69
              345
                             100
## 70
              350
                             100
## 71
              355
                             100
## 72
              360
                             100
## 73
              365
                             100
## 74
              370
                             100
## 75
              375
                             100
## 76
              380
                             100
## 77
              385
                             100
## 78
              390
                             100
## 79
              395
                             100
## 80
              400
                             100
##how many words per session
\#\#go a little less since it's a boring task
words_per_session <- 600
##words are assigned 25% related, 25% unrelated, 50% nonwords
\hbox{\it \#\#this keeps relatedness to 50/50 for real words, which is what SPP did}
##also keeps yes/no lexical decision to 50/50
##also remember you will rate the prime word but it doesn't count
usable_words_per_session <- words_per_session * .50 / 2  
\textit{\#\#each word has to collected in both unrelated and related conditions}
conditions <- 2
{\it \#\#estimated\ participants\ from\ above}
lower_est <- 100
upper_est <- 150
\textit{\#\#data loss conservative estimate from ELP, since online studies may have more}
data_loss <- .9
##target word goal
#number of targets we wish to achieve
number_of_targets <- 1000</pre>
##total estimated participants
((1/data_loss) * #incorporate data loss
  lower_est * #number of participants needed for each word
  conditions * #number of conditions each word has to appear in
 number_of_targets) / #number of total words
 usable_words_per_session
## [1] 1481.481
{\it \#\#total\ estimated\ participants}
((1/data_loss) * #incorporate data loss
  upper_est * #number of participants needed for each word
  conditions * #number of conditions each word has to appear in
```

## 37

## 38

185

190

96

97

number\_of\_targets) / #number of total words
usable\_words\_per\_session

## [1] 2222.222