Analysis for Palestine Experiment

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Introduction

In this document I describe the analysis I have run on the YouGov survey investigating the effects of framing on support for assistance for the Palestinian Authority.

The survey asked respondents to read the following passage:

> "US Secretary of State Antony Blinken visited Israel-Palestine last month after an 11-day escalation of violence. After meeting with Palestinian leaders, Blinken announced that the US would increase assistance to the Palestinian Authority."

Respondents were also randomly shown one of the following sentences at the end of the passage:

- No ending sentence (control condition)
- "A State Department official stated that increasing US assistance to Palestinians will 'help protect American national security interests in the region." (National security treatment)
- "A State Department official stated that increasing US assistance to Palestinians will 'help prevent another humanitarian crisis and civilian suffering in the region." (Humanitarian crisis treatment)
- "A State Department official stated that increasing US assistance to Palestinians will 'help preserve the principles of international law in the region." (International law treatment)
- "A State Department official stated that increasing US assistance to Palestinians will 'help counter racial injustice and oppression in the region." (Racial justice)

Respondents were then asked to respond to the following three statements on a scale of strongly agree to strongly disagree.

- I would support this foreign policy decision.
- This foreign policy decision is good for American interests.
- This foreign policy decision reflects American values.

Measurement / Preliminaries

Assessing the Attentive

A subset of respondents may not be reading the vignettes before answering as 20 percent of respondents read the vignettes and respond to all three questions in under 20 seconds. A subset of respondents not reading the treatments would bias effects towards zero those who do not read the vignettes cannot be influenced by the treatment, diminishing the power of the experiment and increase the chances of finding false positives. To compensate for this, I test all findings are consistent when analyzing the respondents of both all respondents and attentive respondents, which I define as respondents who took more than 10 seconds to answer the survey.

Table 1: Summary Statistics: seconds spent on the survey

Statistic	N	Mean	St. Dev.	Min	Pctl(25)	Pctl(75)	Max
seconds_spent	3,795	42.622	46.006	3	20	49	561

PCA

I create a set of composite outcomes using PCA which summarize responses to the three measures. The loadings for each principal component can be seen below.

Table 2: Prinicipal Component Loadings

	PC1	PC2	PC3
I support this decision	-0.595	0.450	0.665
This policy reflects American Values	-0.558	-0.828	0.061
This is good for American interests	-0.578	0.335	-0.744

The first principal component explains 89% of the variance meaning that it well explains almost all of the variation in the data. PC1 is strongly negatively corrected with all three answers, suggesting that it encodes a respondent's general support / enthusiasm for the policy decision.

Analysis and Results

First, I analyze the effects of the different framings on suport for the intervention as measured by the three questions. There are no differences in support between treated and control respondents for all treatments except uphold international law. Respondents who are told that the increased aid would help uphold international law are uniformly less likely to identify the action as consistent with American values or interests. Respondents exposed to the international law framing also give responses that correspond to high PC1 values, indicating that this framing makes respondents in aggregate less likely to support intervention.

I summarize these results with representative models describing the relationship between the framing and support as measured by the first principal component below.

I now investigate the effects of framings on support for aid to Palestine including the effect of respondent ideology. I run models regressing support as measured by each survey question, and by the principal component. Across all models, changing a respondent's ideology to be more liberal predicts a significant increase in their support for intervention. Representative models run on the principal component outcome can be seen below.

I then run models investigating whether there is an interaction between ideology and the effect the treatments have on support. Put simply: "Do the framings affect support differently among liberals and conservatives?" I estimate models including an interaction between ideology, party, and past voting behavior and the treatment finding no effect. However, it is an open question as to whether this lack of an effect is due to a lack of statistical power or the the absence of an effect.

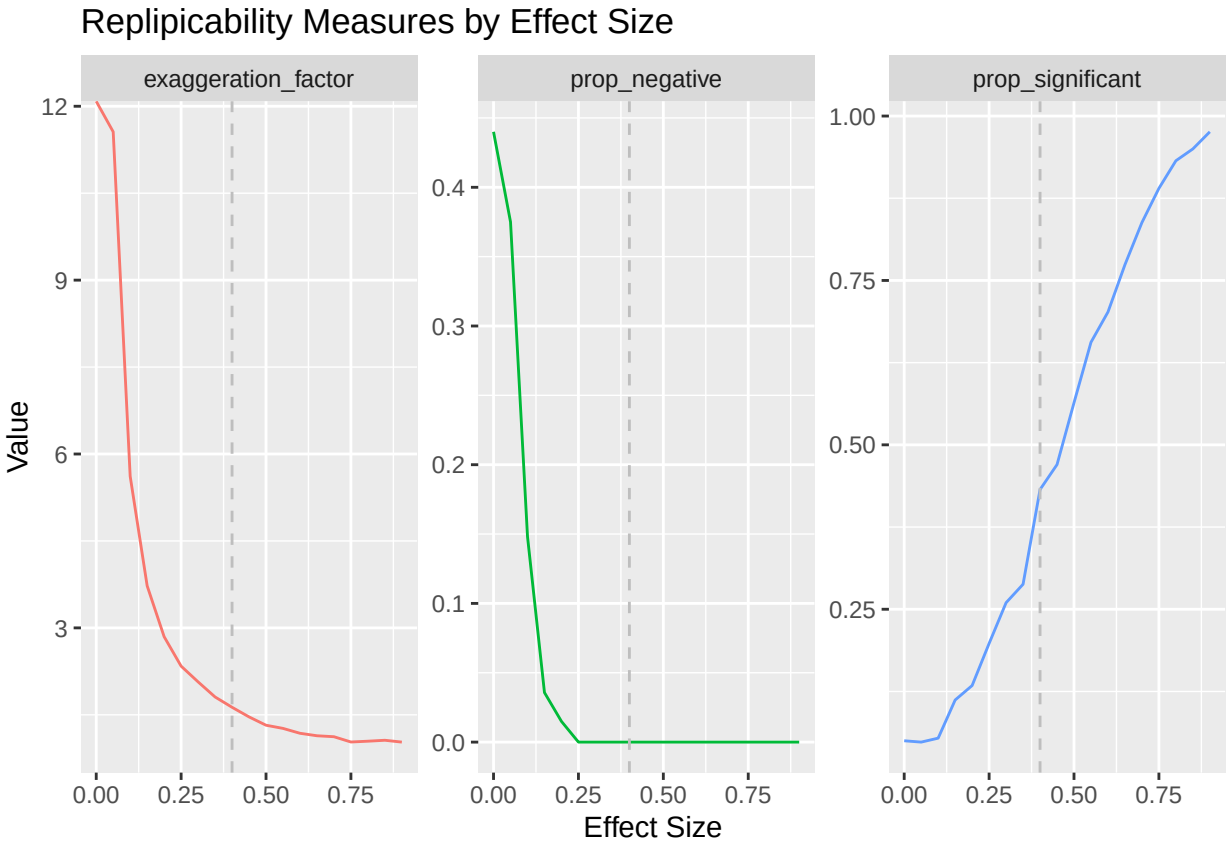
Simulations using random data (results below) suggest that this survey design would not be able to detect the largest interaction effect of .4, the largest effect observed in the first YouGov survey.

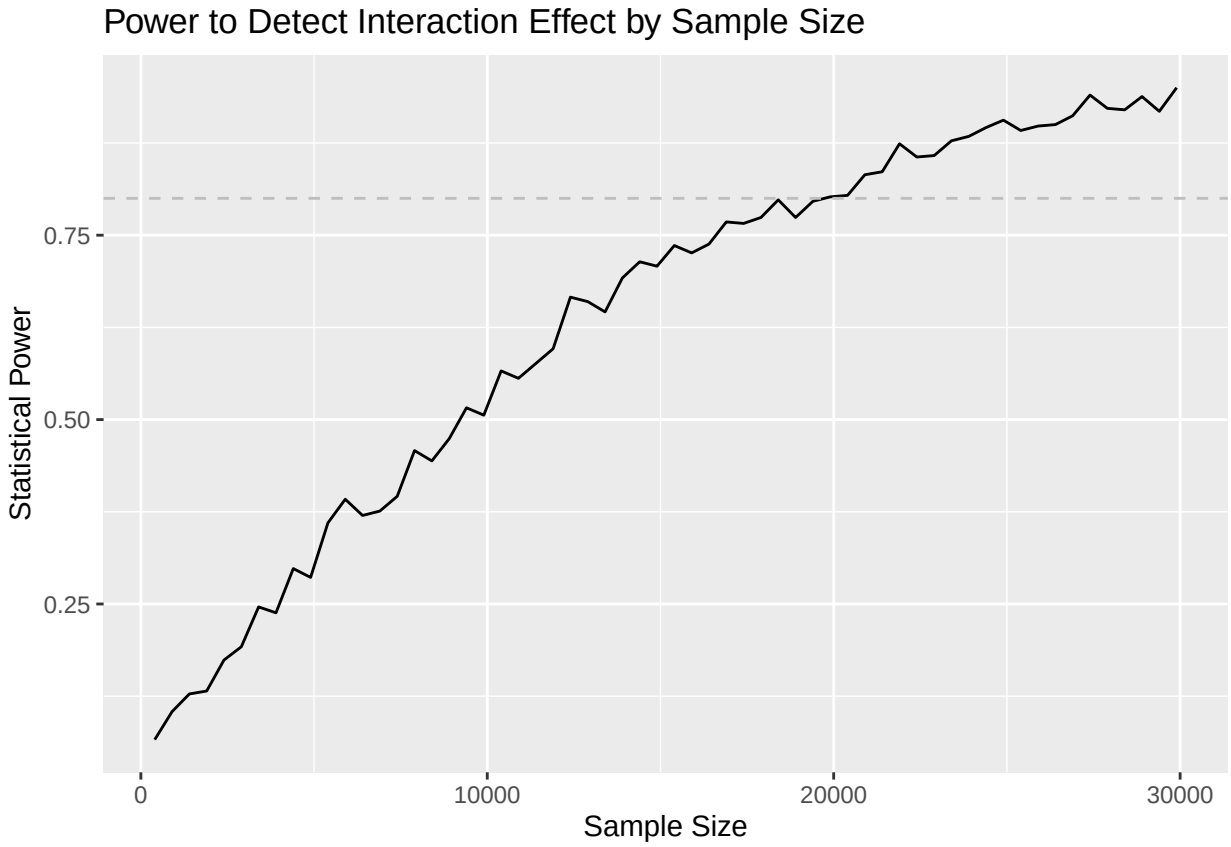
Table 3: principal component (negative = enthusiastic) on treatment

	Dependent variable:	
	Principal Component 1	
	All respondents	Attentive respondents
	(1)	(2)
Counter racial injustice	0.081	−0.021
	(0.161)	(0.177)
National security	0.255	0.241
	(0.162)	(0.178)
Prevent humanitarian crisis	−0.083	−0.099
	(0.158)	(0.174)
Uphold international law	0.365**	0.314*
	(0.164)	(0.180)
Intercept	−0.117	0.076
	(0.114)	(0.126)
Observations	3,826	3,369
R^2	0.003	0.002
Adjusted R^2	0.002	0.001
Residual Std. Error	3.160 (df = 3821)	3.242 (df = 3364)
F Statistic	2.568** (df = 4; 3821)	2.050* (df = 4; 3364)
Note:		*p<0.1; **p<0.05; ***p<0.01

Table 4: principal component (negative = enthusiastic) on treatment

	Dependent variable:	
	Principal Component 1	
	All respondents	Attentive respondents
	(1)	(2)
Counter racial injustice	0.095	−0.041
	(0.153)	(0.164)
National security	0.166	0.062
	(0.154)	(0.165)
Prevent humanitarian crisis	−0.025	−0.077
	(0.151)	(0.162)
Uphold international law	0.335**	0.204
	(0.156)	(0.167)
Ideology	1.279***	1.396***
	(0.040)	(0.042)
Intercept	−0.125	0.125
	(0.109)	(0.118)
Observations	3,447	3,056
R^2	0.233	0.268
Adjusted R^2	0.232	0.267
Residual Std. Error	2.839 (df = 3441)	2.840 (df = 3050)
F Statistic	209.640*** (df = 5; 3441)	223.521*** (df = 5; 3050)
Note:		*p<0.1; **p<0.05; ***p<0.01


Replipicability Measures by Effect Size
exaggeration_factor
prop_negative
prop_significant
Value
Effect Size
12
9
6
3
0.4
0.3
0.2
0.1
0.0
1.00
0.75
0.50
0.25
0.00
0.25
0.50
0.75


Power to Detect Interaction Effect by Sample Size
Statistical Power
Sample Size
0.75
0.50
0.25
0
10000
20000
30000