PSYCH 363 - Stroop Effect: Congruency and Response Time

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Contents

1 Introduction

Previous studies in the Stroop literature have demonstrated that participants might respond differently based on if Stroop items are congruent with their displayed state and some have found evidence of congruency effects [2]. For example, words that are presented in the same colour that the word is describing (i.e. the word "Red" presented in the colour red) would be known as a congruent trial, whereas words presented in a different colour (i.e. "Red, but presented in the colour blue) would be an incongruent trial.

Rey-Mermet discusses the idea of attentional-control processes, namely, our ability to "activate goal-relevant information and to inhibit irrelevant information" [1]. Our study approaches this idea and seeks to understand if reaction time differences arise when comparing congruent to incongruent trials. A participants goal is to correctly report words that are congruent, while inhibiting the irrelevant information presented during incongruent trials and we hypothesize that ones reaction time should differ as a function of the extended cognitive process one must engage in to correctly make this rejection.

2 Methods

Participants. We utilized our 4 group members, and each completed 20 trials 5 times yielding 100 total trials per person. This gave us enough data to be confident in our results, although with such a small sample size of participants it is clear that these results will struggle to generalize to the broader population more broadly.

Materials. A program was developed for use in our experiement to randomly choose different colour words (i.e. red, blue, green, etc) and an associated colour that the words were written in. The words are presented on a plain solid grey background and participants were instructed to either press "z" or "/" on a keyboard to indicate whether the word and its associated colour were congruent (i.e. the written word

matched the colour of the word) or incongruent (i.e. the written word did not match the colour of the word). After each user response a new word would be randomly generated for them to respond to and once the participant completes 20 trials, the program closes itself, the data is exported and procedure ends. Importantly, the colour and word displayed were all randomly selected, and each value available within the program have an equal probaibility of being selected. We chose not to present the participant with a specific number of congruent/incongruent trials to ensure that they could not try to predict/learn what to expect next and maintain complete randomness.

Please see below for a copy of the Python code used in designing the program:

```
from psychopy import visual,core,clock,event
import random as r
import csv
from datetime import datetime

now=datetime.now()
date_time=now.strftime("%Y-%m-%d_%H:%M:%S")
filename="stroop"+date_time+".csv"

keyAssign=["q","z","slash"]
colourOptions=["yellow","red","blue","green"]

probCongruent=0.25

numberTrials=20
RTclock=core.Clock()

win=visual.Window(size=(600,600))

instructionText="Press 'z' for congruent words & colours  and '/' when incongruent. Press any key to st

showInstruction=visual.TextStim(win,instructionText,color="black",height=0.1)
showInstruction.draw()
win.flip()
event.waitKeys()

for i in range(numberTrials):

r.shuffle(colourOptions)

if r.random()<probCongruent:
writtenColour=colourOptions[0]
displayColour=colourOptions[0]
congruent=1
else:
writtenColour=colourOptions[0]
displayColour=colourOptions[1]
congruent=0


displayText = visual.TextStim(win,writtenColour,color=displayColour,height=0.2)

displayText.draw()
win.flip()
RTclock.reset()
```

```
key=event.waitKeys(keyList=keyAssign)
rt=RTclock.getTime()
if (key[0]==keyAssign[0]):
core.quit()

with open(filename,'a',newline='') as csvfile:
posnerwrite=csv.writer(csvfile,delimiter=' ')
posnerwrite.writerow([writtenColour] + [displayColour] + [congruent] + [key[0]] + [rt])

core.wait(1)
core.quit()
```

3 Results

Data structure:

```
dt <- read.csv("363Stroop_Data_Dec_4.csv")

## An example of how our data is structured
head(dt, 10)
```

```
   Trial Congruent Colour Response      Time
1      1         1   blue        z 1.0113984
2      1         0   blue    slash 0.9906640
3      1         0    red    slash 0.7729855
4      1         0  green    slash 0.7496739
5      1         0  green    slash 0.6566195
6      1         1 yellow        z 0.5783305
7      1         0  green    slash 1.0228071
8      1         0  green    slash 1.3865062
9      1         0 yellow    slash 0.7888217
10     1         0   blue    slash 0.9663929
```

Statistical summary of the data:

```
summary(dt)
```

```
    Trial         Congruent         Colour     Response        Time
Min.   : 1.00   Min.   :0.0000   blue  :110   slash:312   Min.   :0.2039
1st Qu.: 5.75   1st Qu.:0.0000   green : 82   z    : 88   1st Qu.:0.6608
Median :10.50   Median :0.0000   red   :102               Median :0.7536
Mean   :10.50   Mean   :0.2175   yellow:106               Mean   :0.8997
3rd Qu.:15.25   3rd Qu.:0.0000                            3rd Qu.:0.9482
Max.   :20.00   Max.   :1.0000                            Max.   :4.5227
```

Number of rows:

```
nrow(dt)
```

```
[1] 400
```

Linear regression model:

```
lmresults <- lm( Time ~ Congruent, data = dt)
summary(lmresults)
```

```

Call:
lm(formula = Time ~ Congruent, data = dt)

Residuals:
    Min      1Q  Median      3Q     Max
-0.7115 -0.2423 -0.1421  0.0377  3.6073

Coefficients:
            Estimate Std. Error t value Pr(>|t|)
(Intercept)  0.91539    0.02736  33.456   <2e-16 ***
Congruent   -0.07234    0.05867  -1.233    0.218
---
Signif. codes:  0 ‘***’ 0.001 ‘**’ 0.01 ‘*’ 0.05 ‘.’ 0.1 ‘ ’ 1

Residual standard error: 0.4841 on 398 degrees of freedom
Multiple R-squared:  0.003806,Adjusted R-squared:  0.001303
F-statistic:  1.52 on 1 and 398 DF,  p-value: 0.2183
```

Specialised T-test:

```
t.test(Time ~ Congruent, mu=0, alt="two.sided", conf=0.95, var.eq=F, paired=F, data = dt)
```

```

Welch Two Sample t-test

data:  Time by Congruent
t = 1.6466, df = 241.61, p-value = 0.1009
alternative hypothesis: true difference in means is not equal to 0
95 percent confidence interval:
 -0.01420303  0.15888674
sample estimates:
mean in group 0 mean in group 1
      0.9153860       0.8430441
```

One way ANOVA:

```
anova(lmresults)
```

```

Analysis of Variance Table

Response: Time
           Df Sum Sq Mean Sq F value Pr(>F)
Congruent   1  0.356 0.35627  1.5205 0.2183
Residuals 398 93.258 0.23432
```

More linear regression:

```
lmresults2 <- lm( Time ~ Congruent + Trial + Colour + Response, data = dt)

summary(lmresults2)
```

```
Call:
lm(formula = Time ~ Congruent + Trial + Colour + Response, data = dt)

Residuals:
    Min      1Q  Median      3Q     Max
-0.5683 -0.2452 -0.1264  0.0476  3.5778

Coefficients:
             Estimate Std. Error t value Pr(>|t|)
(Intercept)   0.985707   0.067434  14.617   <2e-16 ***
Congruent     0.727180   0.488648   1.488    0.138
Trial        -0.006801   0.004213  -1.614    0.107
Colourgreen   0.065221   0.070966   0.919    0.359
Colourred    -0.045419   0.066993  -0.678    0.498
Colouryellow  0.004813   0.065793   0.073    0.942
Responsez    -0.799422   0.486281  -1.644    0.101
---
Signif. codes:  0 ‘***’ 0.001 ‘**’ 0.01 ‘*’ 0.05 ‘.’ 0.1 ‘ ’ 1

Residual standard error: 0.4829 on 393 degrees of freedom
Multiple R-squared:  0.02085,Adjusted R-squared:  0.005901
F-statistic: 1.395 on 6 and 393 DF,  p-value: 0.2154
```

One way ANOVA:

```
anova(lmresults2)
```

```
Analysis of Variance Table

Response: Time
           Df Sum Sq Mean Sq F value Pr(>F)
Congruent   1  0.356 0.35627  1.5275 0.2172
Trial       1  0.505 0.50535  2.1667 0.1418
Colour      3  0.460 0.15330  0.6573 0.5788
Response    1  0.630 0.63034  2.7026 0.1010
Residuals 393 91.662 0.23324
```

4 Discussion

test text

5 References

References

[1] Alodie Rey-Mermet. Finding an interaction between stroop congruency and flanker congruency requires a large congruency effect: A within-trial combination of conflict tasks. *Attention, perception psychophysics*, 82(5):2271–2301, 2020.

[2] Giacomo Spinelli, Kesheni Krishna, Jason R Perry, and Stephen J Lupker. Working memory load dissociates contingency learning and item-specific proportion-congruent effects. *Journal of experimental psychology. Learning, memory, and cognition*, 46(11):2007–2033, 2020.

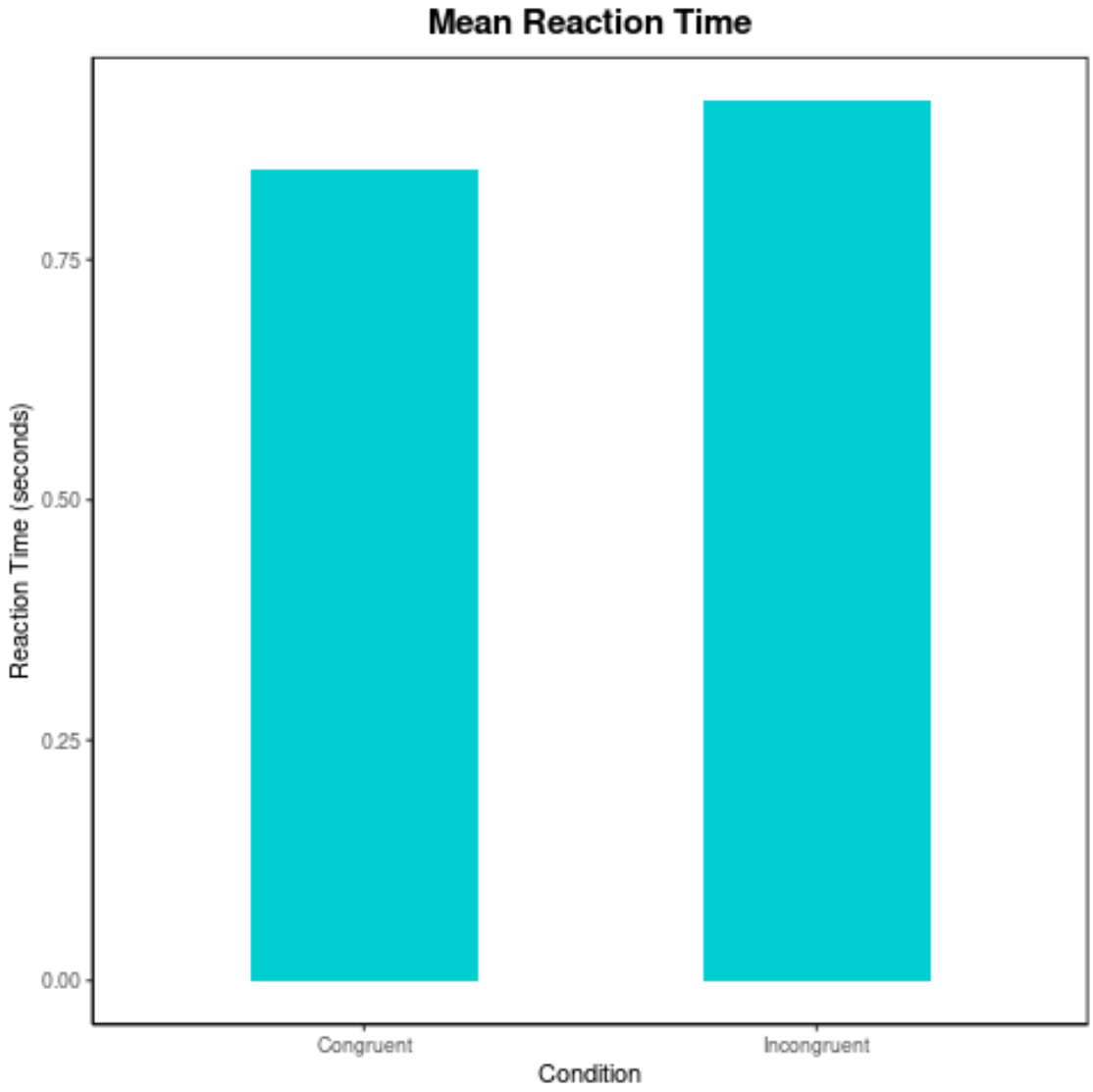
6 Testing Plots here.....

6.1 All Of the available plots below...

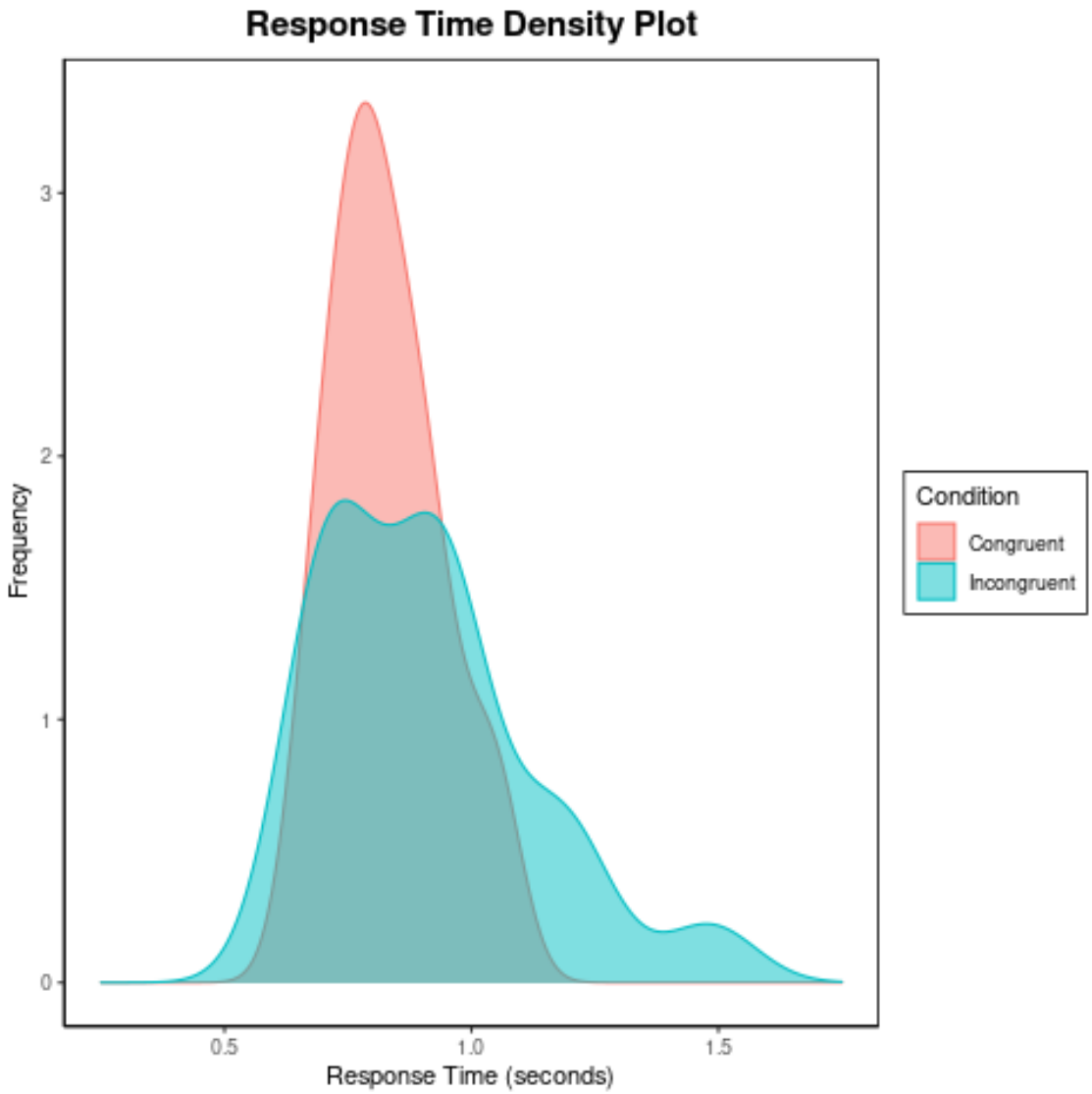
```
library(ggplot2)

data <- read.csv("363Stroop_Data_Dec_4.csv")

Lincongruent <- c()
counter = 1
while(counter <= 20) {
  T = data[which(data$Trial == counter & data$Congruent == 0),]
  mean_RT = mean(T$Time)
  Lincongruent = append(Lincongruent, mean_RT)
  counter = counter + 1
}

Lcongruent <- c()
counter = 1
while(counter <= 20) {
  T = data[which(data$Trial == counter & data$Congruent == 1),]
  mean_RT = mean(T$Time)
  Lcongruent = append(Lcongruent, mean_RT)
  counter = counter + 1
}

cond_rt_df <- data.frame(Condition = rep(c("Congruent", "Incongruent"), each = 20), RT = c(Lcongruent, I
df <- data.frame(Congruent = Lcongruent, Incongruent = Lincongruent)
df$Interference <- df$Incongruent - df$Congruent

incongruent_mean <- mean(data[which(data$Congruent == 0),]$Time)
congruent_mean <- mean(data[which(data$Congruent == 1),]$Time)
overall <- data.frame(cond = c("Incongruent", "Congruent"), rt = c(incongruent_mean, congruent_mean))
```

Incongruent	0.915385980111821
Congruent	0.843044126528736

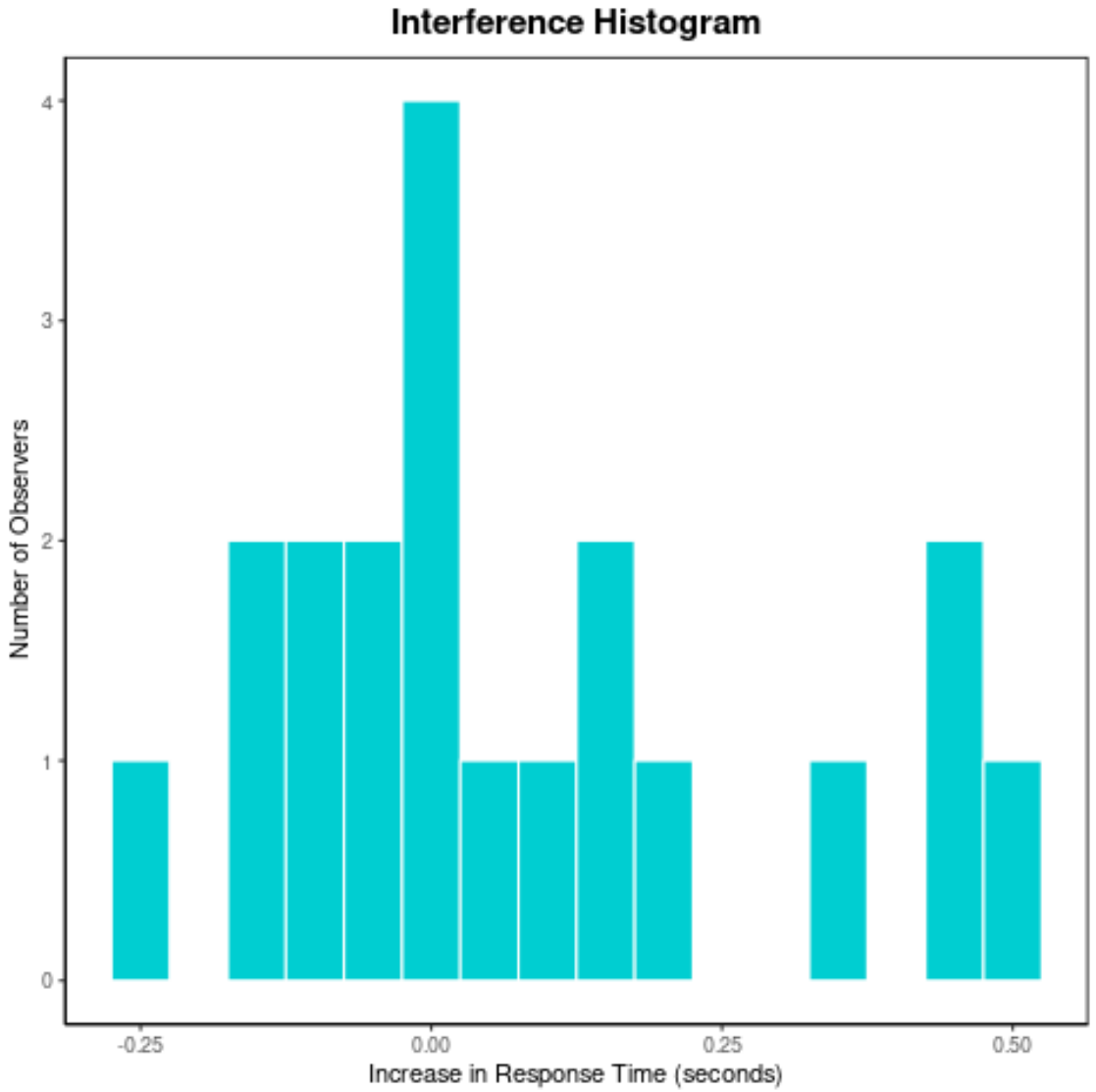
```
p <- ggplot(overall, aes(x = cond, y = rt)) + geom_bar(fill = "darkturquoise", stat = "identity", width

p
```



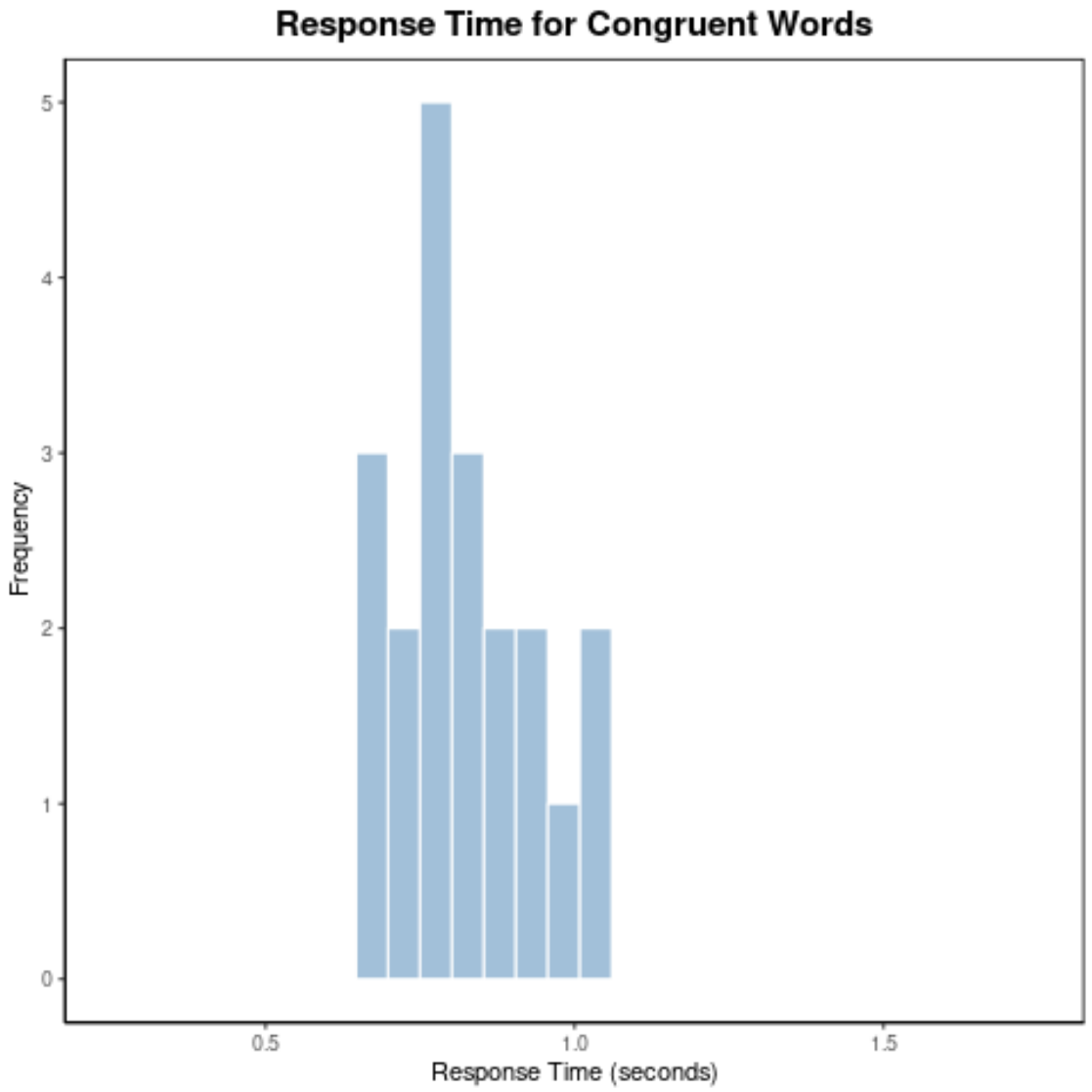

```
density_plot <- ggplot(cond_rt_df, aes(x = RT, color = Condition, fill = Condition)) + geom_density(alpl

density_plot
```



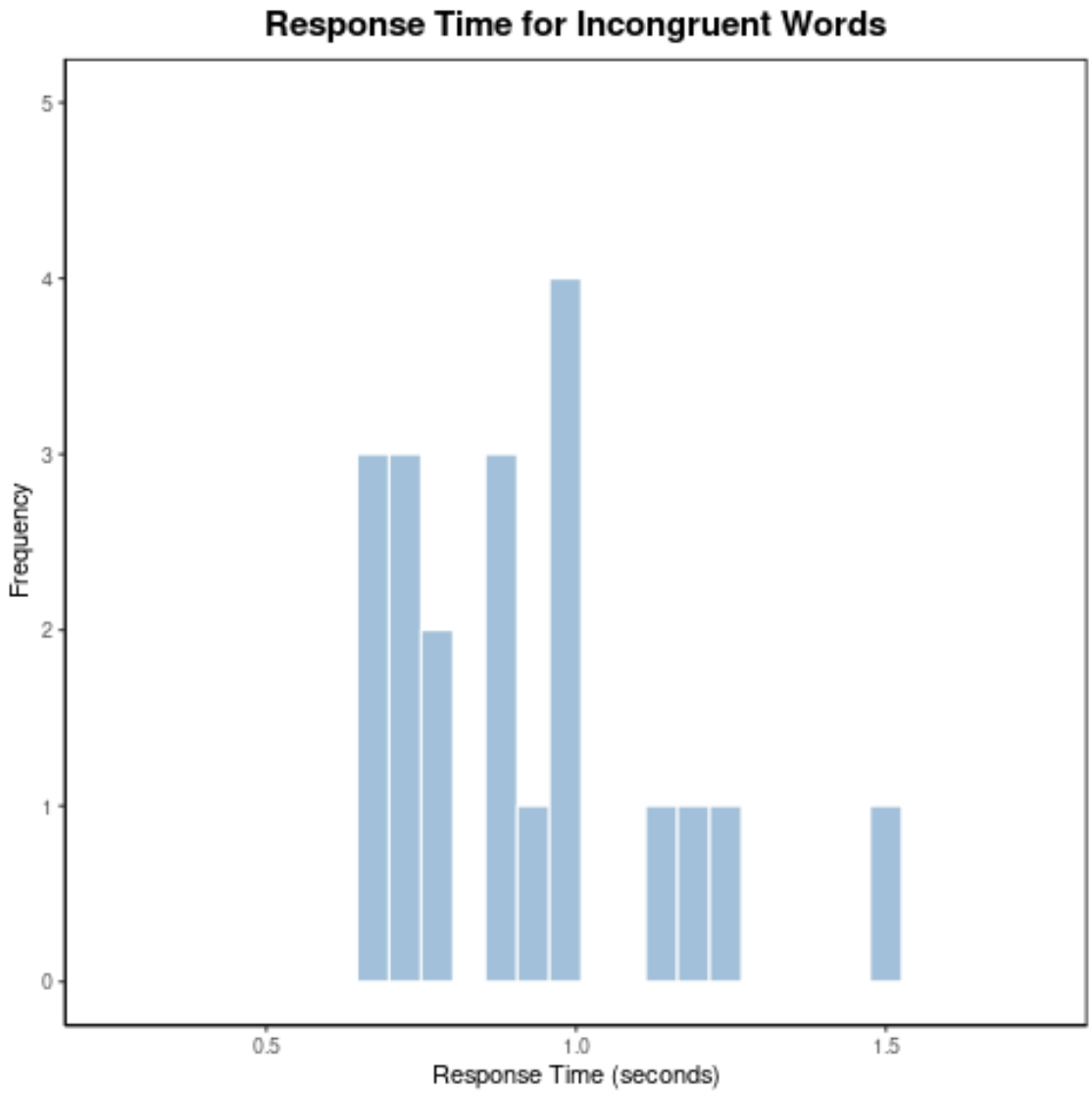

```
interference_hist <- ggplot(df, aes(x = Interference)) + geom_histogram(binwidth = 0.05, color = "white
interference_hist
```



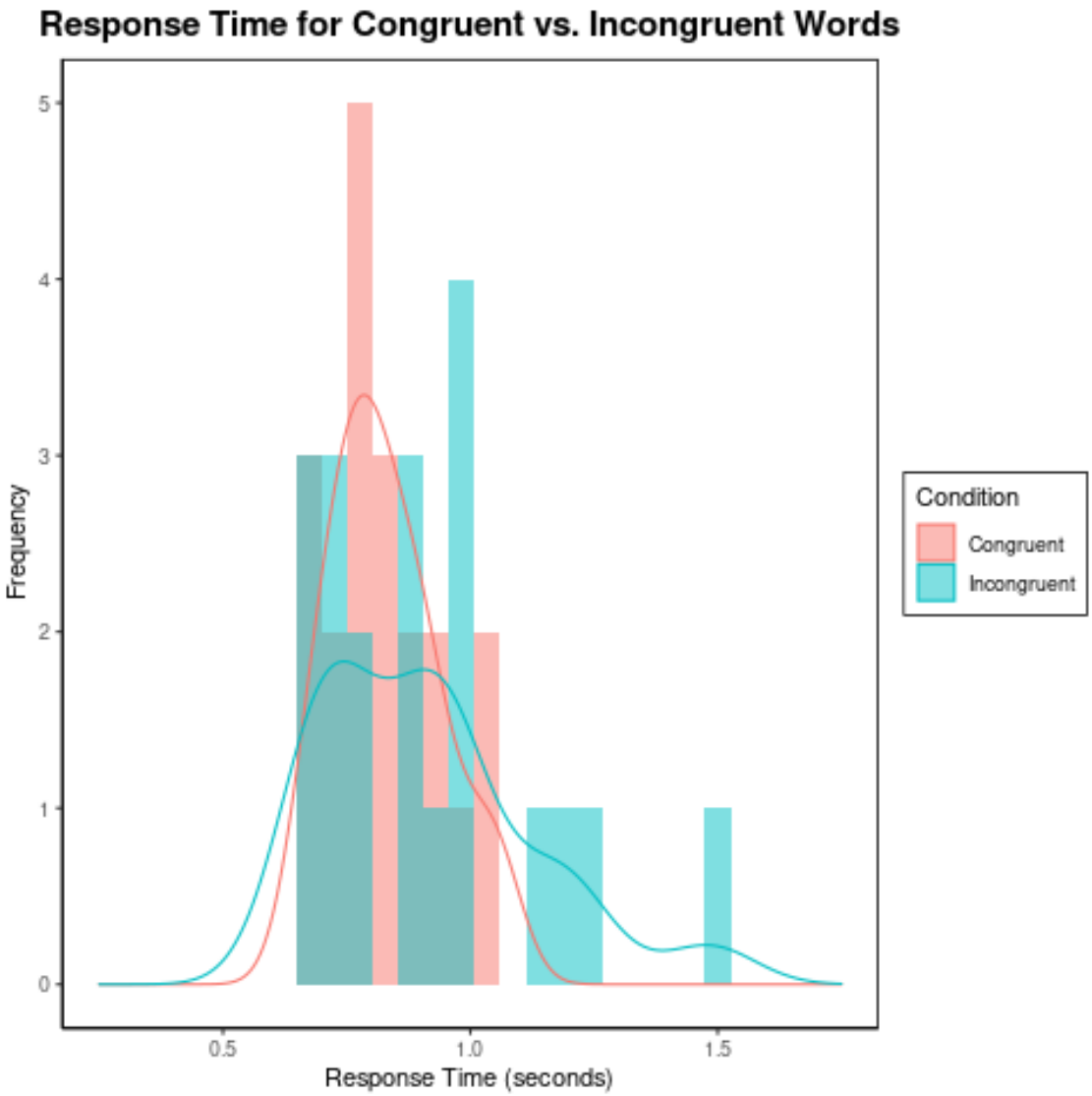

```
RT_congruent <- ggplot(df, aes(x = Congruent)) + geom_histogram(alpha = 0.5, fill = "steelblue", color =

RT_congruent
```




```
RT_incongruent <- ggplot(df, aes(x = Incongruent)) + geom_histogram(alpha = 0.5, fill = "steelblue", co

RT_incongruent
```




```
RT_cond <- ggplot(cond_rt_df, aes(x = RT, color = Condition, fill = Condition)) + geom_histogram(color =

RT_cond
```


Response Time for Congruent vs. Incongruent Words
Frequency
0
1
2
3
4
5
0.5
1.0
1.5
Response Time (seconds)
Condition
Congruent
Incongruent