

¹ **Language Without Borders: A Step-by-Step Guide to Analyzing Webcam Eye-Tracking
Data for L2 Research**

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Abstract

24 Eye-tracking has become a valuable tool for studying cognitive processes in second language (L2)
25 acquisition and bilingualism (Godfroid et al., 2024). While research-grade infrared eye-trackers
26 are commonly used, there are a number of issues that limit its wide-spread adoption. Recently,
27 consumer-based webcam eye-tracking has emerged as an attractive alternative, requiring only
28 internet access and a personal webcam. However, webcam eye-tracking presents unique design
29 and preprocessing challenges that must be addressed for valid results. To help researchers
30 overcome these challenges, we developed a comprehensive tutorial focused on visual world
31 webcam eye-tracking for L2 language research. Our guide will cover all key steps, from
32 experiment design to data preprocessing and analysis, where we highlight the R package
33 `webgazeR`, which is open source and freely available for download and installation:
34 <https://github.com/jgeller112/webgazeR>. We offer best practices for environmental conditions,
35 participant instructions, and tips for designing visual world experiments with webcam
36 eye-tracking. To demonstrate these steps, we analyze data collected through the Gorilla platform
37 (Anwyl-Irvine et al., 2020) using a single word Spanish visual world paradigm (VWP) and show
38 competition within and between L2/L1. This tutorial aims to empower researchers by providing a
39 step-by-step guide to successfully conduct visual world webcam-based eye-tracking studies. To
40 follow along with this tutorial, please download the entire manuscript and its accompanying code
41 with data from here: https://github.com/jgeller112/L2_VWP_Webcam.

42

Keywords: VWP, Tutorial, Webcam eye-tracking, R, Gorilla

43 Language Without Borders: A Step-by-Step Guide to Analyzing Webcam Eye-Tracking

44 Data for L2 Research

Eye-tracking technology, which has a history spanning over a century, has seen remarkable advancements. In the early days, eye-tracking sometimes required the use of contact lenses fitted with search coils, often requiring anesthesia, or the attachment of suction cups to the sclera of the eyes (Plužyczka, 2018). These methods were not only cumbersome for the researcher, but also uncomfortable and invasive for participants. Over time, such approaches have been replaced by non-invasive, lightweight, and user-friendly systems. Today, modern eye-tracking technology is widely accessible in laboratories worldwide, enabling researchers to tackle critical questions about cognitive processes . This evolution has had a profound impact on fields such as psycholinguistics and bilingualism opening up new possibilities for understanding how language is processed in real time (Godfroid et al., 2024).

Despite its widespread usage, eye-tracking technology faces several obstacles that can limit its accessibility. One significant challenge is the specialized expertise required to operate research-grade eye-trackers. Proper usage often demands many hours of training, meaning most research must be conducted in a lab by a trained student or faculty member. Another major limitation is the cost. Eye-trackers can be prohibitively expensive, ranging from a few thousand dollars (e.g., Gazepoint; www.gazept.com) to tens of thousands of dollars (e.g., Tobii (www.tobii.com; SR Research (www.sr-research.com)). As a result, not everyone possess the resources, or the time, to incorporate eye-tracking into their research program.

In addition, eye-tracking research often requires participants to visit a laboratory, which significantly limits the diversity of the sample or population researchers can recruit. Behavioral science research, in general, frequently suffers from a lack of diversity, relying heavily on participants who are predominantly Western, Educated, Industrialized, Rich, Democratic, and able-bodied (WEIRDA). This focus often excludes individuals from geographically dispersed areas, those from lower socioeconomic backgrounds, and people with disabilities who may face barriers to accessing research facilities. In language research, this issue is particularly evident, as

26 it often prioritizes English-speaking, monolingual, populations (Blasi et al., 2022; Bylund et al.,
27 2024) and largely includes individuals with normal developing language abilities (McMurray et
28 al., 2010). These limitations not only narrow the populations available for study but also
29 compromise the generalizability and applicability of research findings.

30 **Eye-tracking outside the lab**

31 Methods that allow participants to use their own equipment from anywhere in the world
32 offer a potential solution to the issues outlined above, enabling researchers to recruit more diverse
33 and disadvantaged samples and explore a broader range of questions (Gosling et al., 2010). The
34 shift toward online behavioral experiments has been gradually increasing in the behavioral
35 sciences and has become every more important since the 2020 pandemic, which forced many of
36 us to run studies online (Anderson et al., 2019; Rodd, 2024). The *onlineification* of behavioral
37 research has prompted the development of eye-tracking methods that do not rely on traditional lab
38 settings.

39 One method, manual eye-tracking (Trueswell, 2008), involves using video recordings of
40 participants, which can be collected through online teleconferencing platforms such as Zoom
41 (www.zoom.com). Here eye gaze (direction) is manually analyzed posthoc frame by frame from
42 these recordings.

43 Another method, which is the focus of this tutorial, is automated eye-tracking or webcam
44 eye-tracking. Webcam eye-tracking requires three things: 1. A personal computer. 2. An internet
45 connection and 3. A purchased or pre-installed webcam. Gaze information can be collected via
46 a web browser. One common method to perform webcam eye-tracking is through an open source,
47 free, and actively maintained JavaScript library plugin called WebGazer.js (Papoutsaki et al.,
48 2016). This plugin is already incorporated into several popular experimental platforms [e.g.,
49 *Gorilla*, *jsPsych*, *PsychoPy*, and *PCIBex*; Anwyl-Irvine et al. (2020); Peirce et al. (2019); Leeuw
50 (2015); Zehr and Schwarz (2018)]. A benefit of WebGazer.js is that it does not require users to
51 download any software, and is fully integrated in the browser, making it extremely easy to start
52 webcam eye-tracking.

53 WebGazer.js uses facial feature detection to dynamically estimate gaze positions in real
54 time via webcam. For every time point (based on sampling rate), x and y coordinates are recorded.
55 WebGazer.js leverages machine learning to analyze the relative movement of the eyes and infer
56 gaze location on a screen. To improve accuracy, a calibration process is used in which users
57 interact with visual stimuli, such as looking at and clicking random dots or tracking a moving
58 dot. This mapping process enhances the precision of the gaze-to-screen-coordinate relationship

59 It is important to note that WebGazer.js is not the only method available. Other methods
60 have been implemented by companies like Tobii (www.tobii.com) and Labvanced ([Kaduk et al., 2024](#)). However, because these methods are proprietary, it is unclear what they are doing under
62 the hood.

63 The algorithms underlying webcam-based eye tracking differ significantly from those used
64 in research-grade eye trackers. Research-grade systems employ video-based recording and rely on
65 the pupil-corneal reflection (P-CR) method to track gaze with high precision ([Carter & Luke, 2020](#)). This method utilizes infrared light to illuminate the eyes, capturing reflections (known as
66 glints) from the cornea and pupil. High-speed cameras simultaneously capture images at rates of
67 hundreds or thousands of frames per second to measure eye position. By combining data from the
68 corneal reflections and pupil location, these systems calculate gaze direction and position.
70 Proprietary algorithms then map this information to specific locations on the screen.

71 This leads to an important question: how does consumer-grade webcam eye tracking
72 compare to research-grade systems? While validation studies are ongoing, webcam-based eye
73 trackers generally exhibit reduced spatiotemporal accuracy. Studies have reported that these
74 systems achieve spatial accuracy and precision exceeding 1° of visual angle, with latencies
75 ranging from 200 ms to 1000 ms ([Kaduk et al., 2024; Semmelmann & Weigelt, 2018; Slim et al., 2024; Slim & Hartsuiker, 2023](#)). Furthermore, the sampling rate of webcam-based systems is
77 much lower, typically capped at 60 Hz, with most studies reporting average or median rates around
78 30 Hz ([Bramlett & Wiener, 2024; Prystauka et al., 2024](#)). Unlike research-grade systems, webcam
79 eye trackers do not use infrared light; instead, they rely on ambient light from the participant's

80 environment. This dependency introduces additional variability in tracking performance.

81 To compare, research-grade systems like the Tobii Pro Spectrum provides spatial precision
82 of 0.03° – 0.06° RMS, spatial accuracy of $<0.3^{\circ}$, and latency of less than 2.5 ms, with a sampling
83 rate of up to 1200 Hz (AB, 2024; Nyström et al., 2021). These advanced metrics make
84 research-grade systems ideal for studies requiring high temporal and spatial resolution.

85 **Bringing the visual world paradigm online**

86 Despite the differences between research-grade and consumer grade eye-tracking, a
87 number of studies have begun to look at if lab-based results replicate online using webcam
88 eye-tracking. Most relevant to this tutorial are online replications using the VWP (Tanenhaus et
89 al., 1995; cf. Cooper, 1974). For the past 25 years, the VWP has been a dominant force in
90 language research, helping researchers tackle a wide range of topics, including sentence
91 processing (Eberhard et al., 1995), word recognition (Allopenna et al., 1998), bilingualism (Ito et
92 al., 2018), and the effects of brain damage on language (Mirman & Graziano, 2012).

93 What makes the widespread use of the VWP even more remarkable is the simplicity of the
94 task. In a typical VWP experiment, participants view a display containing several objects and are
95 asked to select one of them by pointing or clicking. While they listen to a spoken word or phrase
96 that identifies the target object, their eye movements are recorded. Remarkably, looks to each
97 object align very closely—and with precise timing—with the mental activation of the word or
98 concept it represents. This provides a unique and detailed view of how cognitive processes unfold
99 in real time.

100 Most research on visual world eye-tracking has been conducted in laboratory settings
101 using research-grade eye-trackers. However, several attempts have been made to conduct these
102 experiments online using webcam-based eye-tracking. Most online VWP replications have
103 focused on sentence-based language processing. These studies have looked at effects of set size
104 and determiners (Degen et al., 2021), verb semantic constraint (Prystauka et al., 2024; Slim &
105 Hartsuiker, 2023), grammatical aspect and event comprehension (Vos et al., 2022), and lexical
106 interference (Prystauka et al., 2024).

107 More relevant to the current paper are findings from single-word VWP studies conducted

108 online. To date, only one study has investigated visual world webcam eye-tracking with single

109 words. Slim et al. (2024) examined a phonemic cohort task. In the cohort task, pictures were

110 displayed randomly in one of four quadrants, and participants were instructed to fixate on the

111 target based on the auditory cue. On each trial, one of the pictures was phonemically similar to the

112 target in onset (e.g., *MILK – MITTEN*).

113 They were able to observe significant fixations to the cohort compared to the control

114 condition, replicating lab-based single word VWP experiments with research grade eye-trackers

115 (e.g., Allopenna et al., 1998). However, Slim et al. (2024) only observed these competition effects

116 in a later time window compared to remote eye-tracking.

117 It is important to note, however, that while these studies represent successful replication

118 attempts, there is an important caveat. Most notably, some studies (Degen et al., 2021; Slim et al.,

119 2024; e.g., Slim & Hartsuiker, 2023) reported considerable delays in the temporal onset of effects.

120 Several factors likely contribute to these delays, including reduced spatial precision,

121 computational demands, the size of areas of interest (AOIs), and the number of calibrations

122 performed (Degen et al., 2021).

123 More recent work has addressed these limitations by utilizing an updated version of

124 WebGazer.js and using different experimental platforms.¹ For instance, Vos et al. (2022)

125 demonstrated a significant reduction in delays—approximately 50 ms—when comparing

126 lab-based and online versions of the VWP using an updated version of WebGazer within the

127 jsPsych framework (Leeuw, 2015). Furthermore, studies by Prystauka et al. (2024) and Bramlett

128 and Wiener (2024), which leveraged the Gorilla platform alongside the improved WebGazer

129 algorithm, reported effects comparable to those observed in traditional lab-based VWP studies.

130 These findings underscore the potential of the online version of the VWP, powered by

131 webcam eye-tracking, to achieve results similar to those of traditional lab-based methods.

132 Importantly, they demonstrate that this approach can effectively be used to study competition

¹ Studies showing this delay used IPCbex

133 effects in single-word speech perception

134 **Tutorial**

135 Taken together, it seems that webcam eye-tracking is viable alternative to lab-based
136 eye-tracking. Given this, we aimed to support researchers in their efforts to conduct high-quality
137 webcam eye-tracking studies with the VWP. While a valuable tutorial on webcam eye-tracking in
138 the VWP already exists ([Bramlett & Wiener, 2024](#)), we believe there is value in having multiple
139 resources available to researchers. To this end, we sought to expand on the tutorial by Bramlett
140 and Wiener ([2024](#)) by incorporating many of their useful recommendations, but also offering an R
141 package to help streamline data pre-processing.

142 The purpose of this tutorial is to provide an overview of the basic set-up and design
143 features of an online VWP task using the Gorilla platform ([Anwyl-Irvine et al., 2020](#)) and to
144 highlight the pre-processing steps needed to analyze webcam eye-tracking data. Here we use the
145 popular open source programming language R and introduce the `webgazeR` package ([Geller &](#)
146 [Prystauka, 2024](#)) to facilitate pre-processing of webcam data. To highlight the steps needed to
147 process webcam eye-tracking data we present data from a Spanish spoken word VWP with L2
148 Spanish speakers. To our knowledge, L2 processing and competitor effects have not been looked
149 at in the online version of the VWP.

150 The structure of the tutorial will be as follows. We first outline the general methods used
151 to conduct a visual world webcam eye-tracking experiment. Next, we detail the data preprocessing
152 steps required to prepare the data for analysis. Finally, we demonstrate one statistical approach for
153 analyzing our preprocessed data, highlighting its application and implications.

154 **L2 VWP Webcam Eye-tracking**

155 To highlight the preprocessing steps required to analyze webcam eye-tracking data, we
156 examined the competitive dynamics of second-language (L2) learners of Spanish during spoken
157 word recognition. Specifically, we investigated both within-language and cross-language (L2/L1)
158 competition using webcam-based eye-tracking.

159 It is well established that competition plays a critical role in language processing

160 ([Magnuson et al., 2007](#)). In speech perception, as the auditory signal unfolds over time,
161 competitors (or cohorts)—phonological neighbors that differ from the target by an initial
162 phoneme—become activated. To successfully recognize the spoken word, these competitors must
163 be inhibited or suppressed. For example, as the word *wizard* is spoken, cohorts like *whistle* might
164 also be briefly activated and in order for *wizard* to be recognized, *whistle* must be suppressed.

165 A key question in the L2 literature is whether competition can occur cross-linguistically,
166 with interactions between a speaker’s first language (L1) and second language (L2). A recent
167 study by Sarrett et al. ([2022](#)) explored this question using carefully designed stimuli to examine
168 within- and between linguistic (L2/L1) competition in adult L2 Spanish speakers learners using a
169 Spanish VWP. Their study included two key conditions:

170 1. Spanish-Spanish condition: A Spanish competitor was presented alongside the target word.

171 For example, if the target word spoken was “*cielo*” (sky), the Spanish competitor was
172 “*ciencia*” (science).

173 2. Spanish-English (cross-linguistic) condition: An English competitor was presented for the
174 Spanish target word. For example, if the target word spoken was “*botas*” (boots), the
175 English competitor was “*border*.”

176 Sarrett et al. ([2022](#)) also included a no competition condition where the Spanish-English
177 pairs were not cross-linguistic competitors (e.g., *frontera* as the target word and *botas/boots* as an
178 unrelated item in the pair). They observed competition effects in both of the critical conditions:
179 within-Spanish competition (e.g., *cielo - ciencia*) and cross-linguistic competition (e.g., *botas -*
180 *border*). For this tutorial, we collected data to conceptually replicate their pattern of findings.

181 There are two key differences between our dataset and the original study by Sarrett et al.
182 ([2022](#)) worth noting. First, Sarrett et al. ([2022](#)) focused on adult L2 Spanish speakers and posed
183 more fine-grained questions about the time course of competition and resolution and its
184 relationship with L2 language acquisition. Second, unlike McCall et al., who measured Spanish
185 proficiency objectively (e.g., using LexTALE-esp; Izura et al. ([2014](#))), we relied on Prolific’s

186 filters to recruit L2 Spanish speakers.

187 Our primary goal here was to demonstrate the pre-processing steps required to analyze
188 webcam-based eye-tracking data. A secondary goal was to provide evidence of L2 competition
189 within and between or cross-linguistically using this methodology. To our knowledge, no papers
190 have looked at spoken word recognition and competition using online methods. It is our hope that
191 researchers can use this to test more detailed questions about L2 processing using webcam-based
192 eye-tracking.

193 **Method**

194 All tasks herein can be previewed here (<https://app.gorilla.sc/openmaterials/953693>). The
195 manuscript, data, and R code can be found on Github
196 (https://github.com/jgeller112/webcam_gazeR_VWP).

197 **Participants**

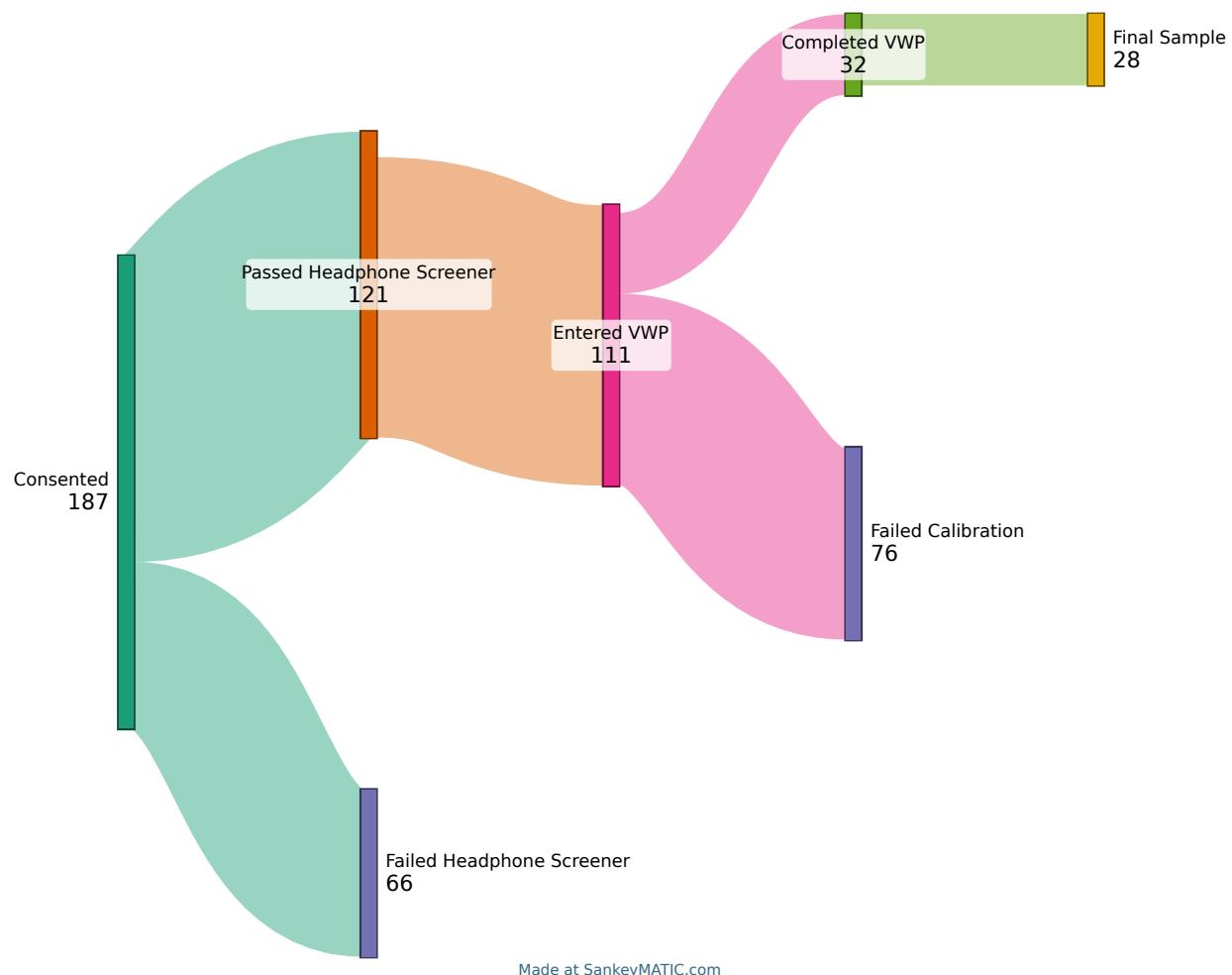
198 We recruited participants from Prolific, a participant recruitment platform, who where: (1)
199 between the ages of 18 and 36 years old, (2) native English speakers, (3) were also fluent in
200 Spanish, and (4) residents of the US. All participants were taken to the Gorilla hosting and
201 experiment platform (www.gorilla.sc; (Anwyl-Irvine et al., 2020)). The participant flow is shown
202 in Figure 1. A total of 187 participants consented to participate in the study. Of these, 111 passed
203 the headphone screener checkpoint and proceeded to the VWP. Among these, 32 participants
204 successfully completed the Visual World Paradigm (VWP) task with at least 100 trials, while 79
205 participants failed calibration. Ninety-one participants completed the entire experiment, including
206 the final questionnaires. Table 1 provides basic demographic information about the participants
207 who completed the full experiment. After applying additional exclusion criteria (low accuracy (<
208 80%) and excessive missing eye-data (> 30%), the final sample consisted of 28 participants with
209 usable eye-tracking data.

210 **Materials**

211 **VWP..**

Figure 1

Participant flow through the experiment



212 **Items.** We adapted materials from Sarrett et al. (2022). In their cross-linguistic VWP,

213 participants were presented with four pictures and a spoken Spanish word and had to select the
 214 image that matched the spoken word by clicking on it. The word stimuli for the experiment were
 215 chosen from textbooks used by students in their first and second year college Spanish courses.

216 The item sets consisted of two types of phonologically-related word pairs: one pair of
 217 Spanish-Spanish words and another of Spanish-English words. The Spanish-Spanish pairs were
 218 unrelated to the Spanish-English pairs. All the word pairs were carefully controlled on a number
 219 of dimensions (see (Sarrett et al., 2022)).

220 There were three experimental conditions: (1) the Spanish-Spanish condition, where one

Table 1

Participant demographic variables

Characteristic	N = 91 ¹
Age	(20.0, 35.0), 28.2(4.4)
Gender	
Female	42 / 91 (46%)
Male	49 / 91 (54%)
Spoken dialect	
Do not know	11 / 91 (12%)
Midwestern	19 / 91 (21%)
New England	11 / 91 (12%)
Other (please specify)	7 / 91 (7.7%)
Pacific northwest	7 / 91 (7.7%)
Pacific southwest	7 / 91 (7.7%)
Southern	21 / 91 (23%)
Southwestern	8 / 91 (8.8%)
Race	
Decline to state	1 / 91 (1.1%)
Hispanic or Latino	38 / 91 (42%)
Not Hispanic or Latino	52 / 91 (57%)
Browser	
Chrome	77 / 91 (85%)
Edge	3 / 91 (3.3%)
Firefox	7 / 91 (7.7%)
Safari	4 / 91 (4.4%)
Years Speaking Spanish	(0, 35), 15(10)
Percentage Time Speaking Spanish	25(23)

¹ (Min, Max), Mean(SD); n / N (%); Mean(SD)

221 of the Spanish words was the target and the other was the competitor; (2) the Spanish-English
 222 condition, where a Spanish word was the target and its English phonological cohort served as the
 223 competitor; and (3) the No Competitor condition, where the Spanish word did not overlap with
 224 any other word in the set. The Spanish-Spanish condition had twice as many trials as the other
 225 conditions due to the interchangeable nature of the target and competitor words in that pair.

226 There were 15 sets of 4 items (half the number of sets used in (Sarrett et al., 2022)). Each
 227 item within a set was repeated 4 times as the target word. This yielded 240 trials (15 sets × 4

228 items per set \times 4 repetitions). Each item set consisted of one Spanish-Spanish cohort pair and one
229 Spanish-English cohort pair. Both items in a Spanish-Spanish pair had a “reciprocal” competitor
230 relationship (that is, we could test activation for *cielo* given *ciencia*, and for *ciencia* given *cielo*).
231 Consequently, there were 120 trials in the Spanish-Spanish condition. In contrast, only one item
232 from the Spanish-English pair had the specified competitor relationship (we could test activation
233 for *frontera border*, given *botas*, but when hearing *frontera*, there was no competitor). Thus, there
234 were only 60 trials for each the Spanish-English competition as well as the No Competitor
235 condition. Items occurred in each of the four corners of the screen on an equal numbers of trials.

236 **Stimuli.** In Sarrett et al. (2022) all auditory stimuli were recorded by a female bilingual
237 speaker whose native language was Mexican Spanish and also spoke English. Stimuli were
238 recorded in a sound-attenuated room sampled at 44.1 kHz. Auditory tokens were edited to reduce
239 noise and remove clicks. The auditory tokens were then amplitude normalized to 70 dB SPL. For
240 each target word, there were four separate recordings so each instance was unique.

241 Visual stimuli were images from a commercial clipart database that were selected by a
242 consensus method involving a small group of students. All .wav files were converted to .mp3 for
243 online data collection. All stimuli can be found here: <https://osf.io/mgkd2/>.

244 **Headphone screener.** Headphones were required for all participants. To ensure this, we
245 used a six-trial task taken from Woods et al. (2017). On each trial, three tones of the same
246 frequency and duration were presented sequentially. One tone had a lower amplitude than the
247 other two tones. Tones were presented in stereo, but the tones in the left and right channels were
248 180 out of phase across stereo channels—in free field, these sounds should cancel out or create
249 distortion, whereas they will be perfectly clear over headphones. The listener picked which of the
250 three tones was the quietest. Performance is generally at the ceiling when wearing headphones but
251 poor when listening in the free field (due to phase cancellation).

252 **Demographics questionnaire.** Participants completed a demographic questionnaire as
253 part of the study. The questions covered basic demographic information, including age, gender,
254 spoken dialect, ethnicity, and race.

255 Participants also answered a series of questions related to their personal health and
256 environmental conditions during the experiment. These questions addressed any history of vision
257 problems (e.g., corrected vision, eye disease, or drooping eyelids) and whether they were
258 currently taking medications that might impair judgment. Participants also indicated if they were
259 wearing eyeglasses, contacts, makeup, false eyelashes, or hats.

260 The questionnaire inquired about their environment, asking if there was natural light in the
261 room, if they were using a built-in camera or an external one (with an option to specify the brand),
262 and their estimated distance from the camera. Participants were asked to estimate how many times
263 they looked at their phone or got up during the experiment and whether their environment was
264 distraction-free.

265 Additional questions assessed the clarity of calibration instructions, allowing participants
266 to suggest improvements, and asked if they were wearing a mask during the session. These
267 questions aimed to gather insights into personal and environmental factors that could impact data
268 quality and participant comfort during the experiment.

269 To gauge L2 experience, we asked participants when they started speaking Spanish, how
270 many years of Spanish speaking experience they had, and to provide, on a scale between 0-100,
271 how often they use Spanish in their daily lives.

272 **Procedure**

273 All tasks were completed in a single session, lasting approximately 45 minutes. The tasks
274 were presented in a fixed order: consent, headphone screener, spoken word VWP, and
275 questionnaire items.

276 The experiment was programmed in the Gorilla Experiment Platform (Anwyl-Irvine et al.,
277 2019), with personal computers as the only permitted device type. Upon entering the online study,
278 participants received general information to decide if they wished to participate, after which they
279 provided informed consent. Participants were then instructed to adjust the volume to a
280 comfortable level while noise played.

281 Next, participants completed a headphone screening test. They had three attempts to pass

282 this test. If unsuccessful by the third attempt, participants were directed to an early exit screen,
283 followed by the questionnaire.

284 For those who passed the screening, the next task was the VWP. This began with
285 instructional videos providing specific guidance on the ideal experiment setup for eye-tracking
286 and calibration procedures. Participants were then required to enter full-screen mode before
287 calibration. A 9 point calibration procedure was used. Calibration occurred every 60 trials for a
288 total of 3 calibrations. Participants had three attempts to successfully complete each calibration
289 phase. If calibration was unsuccessful, participants were directed to an early exit screen, followed
290 by the questionnaire.

291 In the main VWP task, each trial began with a 500 ms fixation cross at the center of the
292 screen. This was followed by a preview screen displaying four images, each positioned in a corner
293 of the screen. After 1500 ms, a start button appeared in the center. Participants clicked the button
294 to confirm they were focused on the center before the audio played. Once clicked, the audio was
295 played, and the images remained visible. Participants were instructed to click the image that best
296 matched the spoken target word, while their eye movements were recorded. Eye movements were
297 only recorded on that screen. Figure 2 displays the VWP trial sequence.

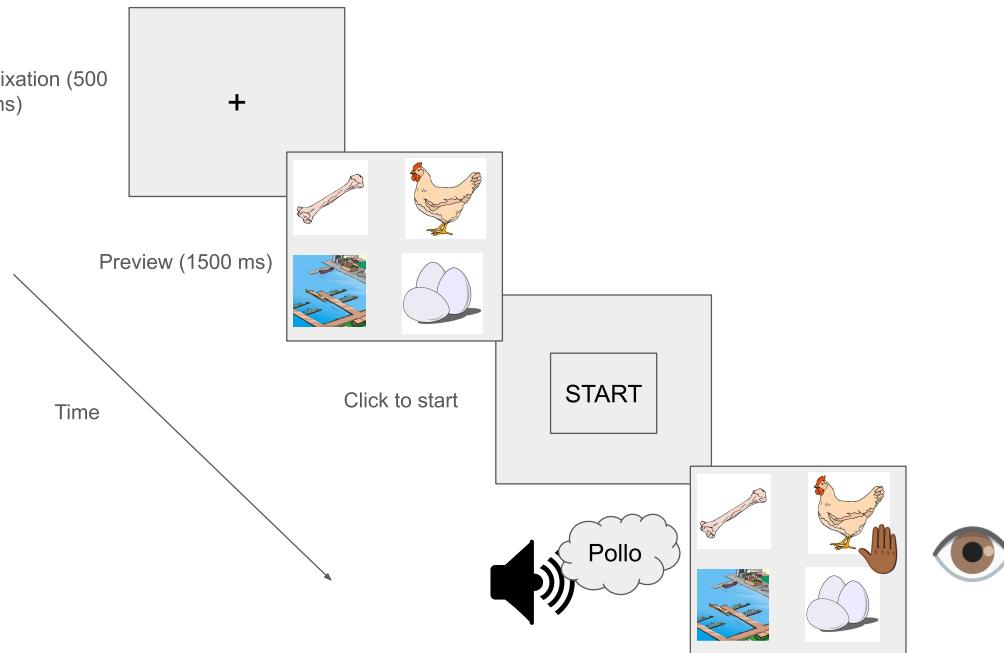
298 After completing the main VWP task, participants proceeded to the final questionnaire,
299 which included questions about the eye-tracking task and basic demographic information.
300 Participants were then thanked for their participation.

301 **Preprocessing data**

302 After the data is collected you can begin preprocessing your data. Below we highlight the
303 steps needed to preprocess your webcam eye-tracking data and get it ready for analysis. For some
304 of this preprocessing we will use the newly created `webgazeR` package (v. 0.1.0) which is an
305 extension of the `gazeR` package (Geller et al., 2020) which was created to analyze VWP data in
306 lab-based studies.

307 For preprocessing visual world webcam eye data, we follow six general steps:

308 1. Reading in data

Figure 2*VWP trial schematic*

309 2. Data Exclusion

310 3. Combining trial- and eye-level data

311 4. Assigning areas of interest

312 5. Time Binning

313 6. Aggregating (optional)

314 For each of these steps, we will display R code chunks demonstrating how to perform each

315 step with helper functions (if applicable) from the `webgazeR` (Geller & Prystauka, 2024) package

316 in R.

317 ***Load packages***

318 ***Package Installation and Setup.*** Before turning to the pre-processing code below, we will

319 need to make sure all the necessary packages are installed. The code will not run if the packages

320 are not installed properly. If you have already installed the packages mentioned below, then you

321 can skip ahead and ignore this section. To install the necessary packages, simply run the following

322 code - it may take some time (between 1 and 5 minutes to install all of the libraries so you do not
323 need to worry if it takes some time).

324 ***webgazeR installation.*** The webgazeR package is installed from the Github repository
325 using the remotes package.

```
library(remotes) # install github repo

remotes::install_github("jgeller112/webgazeR")
```

326 Once this is installed, webgazeR can be loaded along with additional useful packages. The
327 following code will load the required packages or install them if you do not have them on your
328 system.

```
options(stringsAsFactors = FALSE) # no automatic data transformation

options("scipen" = 100, "digits" = 10) # suppress math annotation

# List of required packages
required_packages <- c(
  "tidyverse",           # data wrangling
  "here",                # relative paths instead of absolute aids in reproducibility
  "tinytable",            # nice tables
  "janitor",              # functions for cleaning up your column names
  "webgazeR",              # has webcam functions
  "readxl",                # read in Excel files
  "ggokabeito",            # color-blind friendly palettes
  "flextable",              # Word tables
  "permuco",                # permutation analysis
  "foreach",                # permutation analysis
  "geomtextpath",            # for plotting labels on lines of ggplot figures
```

```
"cowplot"          # combine ggplot figures  
)  
  
# Install and load each package  
for (pkg in required_packages) {  
  if (!require(pkg, character.only = TRUE)) {  
    install.packages(pkg, dependencies = TRUE)  
    library(pkg, character.only = TRUE)  
  }  
}
```

329 Once `webgazeR` and other helper packages have been installed and loaded the user is ready
330 to start cleaning your data.

331 ***Reading in data***

332 **Behavioral, trial-level, data.** To process eye-tracking data you will need to make sure
333 you have both the behavioral data and the eye-tracking data files. We have all the data needed in
334 the repository by navigating to the L2 subfolder in the data folder (data -> L2). For the behavioral
335 data, Gorilla produces a .csv file that includes trial-level information (here contained in the
336 object `L2_data`). The files needed are called `data_exp_196386-v5_task-scf6.csv`. and
337 `data_exp_196386-v6_task-scf6.csv`. We have two files because we ran a modified version of
338 the experiment.

339 The .csv files contain meta-data for each each trial, such as what picture were presented on
340 each trial, which object was the target, reaction times, audio presentation times, what object was
341 clicked on, etc. To load our data files into our R environment, we use the `here` package to set a
342 relative rather than an absolute path to our files. We read in the data files from the repositroy for
343 both versions of the task and merge the files together. `L2_data` merges both
344 `data_exp_196386-v5_task-scf6.csv` and `data_exp_196386-v6_task-scf6.csv` into one

345 object.

```
# load in trial level data
# combine data from version 5 and 6 of the task
L2_1 <- read_csv(here("data", "L2", "data_exp_196386-v5_task-scf6.csv"))
L2_2 <- read_csv(here("data", "L2", "data_exp_196386-v6_task-scf6.csv"))
L2_data <- rbind(L2_1, L2_2) # bind the two objects together
```

346 **Eye-tracking data.** Gorilla currently saves each participant's eye-tracking data trial by
 347 trial. The raw subfolder in the data folder in the project repository contains the eye-tracking files
 348 by participant for each trial individually. Contained in those files, we have information pertaining
 349 to each trial such as participant id, time since trial started, x and y coordinates of looks,
 350 convergence (the model's confidence in finding a face (and accurately predicting eye movements)),
 351 face confidence (represents the support vector machine (SVM) classifier score for the face model
 352 fit), and information pertaining to the the AOI screen coordinates (standardized and user-specific).
 353 The vwp_files_L2 object below contains a list of all the files contained in the folder. Because
 354 vwp_files_L2 contains trial data as well as calibration data, we remove the calibration trials and
 355 save the files to vwp_paths_filtered_L2.

```
# Get the list of all files in the folder
vwp_files_L2 <- list.files(here::here("data", "L2", "raw"), pattern = "\\.xlsx$", full = TRUE)
# Exclude files that contain "calibration" in their filename
vwp_paths_filtered_L2 <- vwp_files_L2[!grepl("calibration", vwp_files_L2)]
```

356 When data is generated from Gorilla, each trial in your experiment is saved as an
 357 individual file. Because of this, we need some way to take all the individual files and merge them
 358 together. The merge_webcam_files() function merges each trial from each participant into a
 359 single tibble or data frame. Before running the merge_webcam_files() function, ensure that
 360 your working directory is set to where the files are stored. merge_webcam_files() reads in all

361 the .xlsx files from the raw subfolder, binds them together into one dataframe, and cleans up the
 362 column names. The function then filters the data to include only rows where the type is
 363 “prediction” and the screen_index matches the specified value (in our case, screen 4 is where we
 364 collected eye-tracking data). If you recorded across multiple screens the screen_index argument
 365 can take multiple values (e.g., screen_index= c(1, 4, 5), will take eye-tacking information from
 366 screens, 1, 4, and 5)). merge_webcam_files() also renames the spreadsheet_row column to
 367 trial and sets both trial and subject as factors for further analysis in our pipeline. As a note, all
 368 steps should be followed in order due to the renaming of column names. If you encounter an error
 369 it might be because column names have not been changed.

```
setwd(here::here("data", "L2", "raw")) # set working directory to raw data folder
edat_L2 <- merge_webcam_files(vwp_paths_filtered_L2, screen_index=4) # eye tracking occu
```

370 ***Subject and trial level data removal***

371 To ensure high-quality data, it is essential to filter out unreliable data based on both
 372 behavioral and eye-tracking criteria before merging datasets. In our dataset, participants will be
 373 excluded if they meet any of the following conditions: failure to successfully calibrate throughout
 374 the experiment (less than 100 trials), low accuracy ($< 80\%$), low sampling rates (< 5), and a high
 375 proportion of gaze data outside the screen coordinates ($> 30\%$). Successful calibration is crucial
 376 for capturing accurate eye-tracking measurements, so participants who could not maintain proper
 377 calibration may have inaccurate gaze data. Similarly, low accuracy may indicate poor engagement
 378 or task difficulty, which can reduce the reliability of the behavioral data and suggest that
 379 eye-tracking data may be less precise.

380 First, we will create a cleaned up version of our use the behavioral, trial-level, data
 381 L2_data by creating an object named eye_behav_L2 that selects useful columns from that file
 382 and renames stimuli to make them more intuitive. Because most of this will be user-specific, no
 383 function is called here. Below we describe the preprocessing done on the behavioral data file. The
 384 below code processes and transforms the L2_data dataset into a cleaned and structured format for

385 further analysis. First, the code renames several columns for easier access using
 386 `janitor::clean_names()` (Firke, 2023) function. We then select only the columns we need and
 387 filter the dataset to include only rows where `zone_type` is “`response_button_image`”, representing
 388 the picture selected for that trial. Afterward, the function renames additional columns (`tlpic` to
 389 `TL`, `trpic` to `TR`, etc.). We also renamed `participant_private_id` to `subject`,
 390 `spreadsheet_row` to `trial`, and `reaction_time` to `RT`. This makes our columns consistent
 391 with the `edat` above for merging later on. Lastly, `reaction_time` (RT) is converted to a numeric
 392 format for further numerical analysis.

393 It is important to note here that what the behavioral spreadsheet denotes as `trial` is not in
 394 fact the trial number used in the eye-tracking files. Thus it is imperative you use `spreadhseet`
 395 `row` as trial number to merge the two files successfully.

```
#|message: false
#|echo: true
eye_behav_L2 <- L2_data %>%
  janitor::clean_names() %>%
  # Select specific columns to keep in the dataset
  dplyr::select(participant_private_id, correct, tlpic, trpic, blpic, brpic, condition,
  # Filter the rows where 'Zone.Type' equals "response_button_image"
  dplyr::filter(zone_type == "response_button_image") %>%
  # Rename columns for easier use and readability
  dplyr::rename(
    "TL" = "tlpic",           # Rename 'tlpic' to 'TL'
    "TR" = "trpic",           # Rename 'trpic' to 'TR'
```

```

"BL" = "blpic",           # Rename 'blpic' to 'BL'
"BR" = "brpic",           # Rename 'brpic' to 'BR'
"targ_loc" = "zone_name", # Rename 'Zone.Name' to 'targ_loc'
"subject" = "participant_private_id", # Rename 'Participant.Private.ID' to 'subject'
"trial" = "spreadsheet_row", # Rename 'spreadsheet_row' to 'trial'
"acc" = "correct",         # Rename 'Correct' to 'acc' (accuracy)
"RT" = "reaction_time"    # Rename 'Reaction.Time' to 'RT'
) %>%
# Convert the 'RT' (Reaction Time) column to numeric type
mutate(RT = as.numeric(RT),
       subject=as.factor(subject),
       trial=as.factor(trial))

```

396 **Audio onset.** Because we are using spoken audio on each trial and running this
 397 experiment from the browser, audio onset is never going to be consistent across participants. In
 398 Gorilla there is an option to collect advanced audio features (you must make sure you select this
 399 when designing the study) such as when the audio play was requested, fired (played) and when the
 400 audio ended. To do so you must click on advanced settings and select 1 (see Figure 3). We will
 401 want to incorporate this timing information into our analysis pipeline. Gorilla records the onset of
 402 the audio which varies by participant. We are extracting that in the `audio_rt_L2` object by
 403 filtering `zone_type` to `content_web_audio` and response equal to “AUDIO PLAY EVENT
 404 FIRED”. This will tell us when the audio was triggered in the experiment. We are creating a
 405 column called (`RT_audio`) which we will use later on to correct for audio delays.

```

audio_rt_L2 <- L2_data %>%
janitor::clean_names() %>%

```

Figure 3

Advanced audio settings in Gorilla

Web Audio

If **0** allow participant to start media manually. Choose 1 (start manually) or 0. Default: 1

Media can be played up to **(setting)** times. Default: 1

If **(setting)** advance when media is finished. Choose 1 (advance when finished) or 0. Default: 0

Advanced Settings + Show

If **1**, provide additional metrics on audio events. Choose 1 for on or 0/unset for off. Default: 0/unset.

Audio format: **mp3**. When playing audio files specified by embedded data, manually specify the format (usually wav or mp3) here. Default: mp3

Show Stop Button: **(setting)**. When playing audio, show a stop button allowing the audio file to be stopped. Choose 1 for on (show stop button), or 0/unset for off. Default: 0/unset

Show full audio controls: **(setting)**. Show a full set of controls for the audio file, allowing participants to play, pause, rewind etc. Choose 1 for on (show full controls), or 0/unset for off. Default: 0/unset

Localisation Settings ? Docs + Show

```

select(participant_private_id, zone_type, spreadsheet_row, reaction_time, response) %>%
  filter(zone_type=="content_web_audio", response=="AUDIO PLAY EVENT FIRED") %>%
  distinct() %>%
  dplyr::rename("subject" = "participant_private_id",
    "trial" = "spreadsheet_row",
    "RT_audio" = "reaction_time") %>%
  select(-zone_type) %>%
  mutate(RT_audio=as.numeric(RT_audio))

```

406 We then merge this information with eye_behav_L2.

```

# merge the audio Rt data to the trial level object
trial_data_rt_L2 <- merge(eye_behav_L2, audio_rt_L2, by=c("subject", "trial"))

```

407 **Trial removal.** As stated above, participants who did not successfully calibrate 3 times or

408 less were rejected from the experiment. Let's take a look at how many trials each participant had

409 using the trial_data_rt_L2 object. Deciding to remove trials is ultimately up to the researcher.

410 In our case, we removed participants with less than 100 trials. In Table 2 we can see several

411 participants failed some of the calibration attempts and do not have an adequate number of trials.

412 Again we make no strong recommendations here. If you to decide to do this, we recommend

413 pre-registering this decision.

```

# find out how many trials each participant had
edatntrials_L2 <- trial_data_rt_L2 %>%
  dplyr::group_by(subject)%>%
  dplyr::summarise(ntrials=length(unique(trial)))

```

414 Let's remove them from the analysis using the below code.

```
trial_data_rt_L2 <- trial_data_rt_L2 %>%
  filter(subject %in% edatntrials_bad_L2$subject)
```

415 **Low accuracy.** In our experiment, we want to make sure accuracy is high (> 80%).

416 Again, we want participants that are fully attentive in the experiment. In the below code, we keep
 417 participants with accuracy equal to or above 80% and only include correct trials and save it to
 418 `trial_data_acc_clean_L2`.

```
# Step 1: Calculate mean accuracy per subject and filter out subjects with mean accuracy < 80%
subject_mean_acc_L2 <- trial_data_rt_L2 %>%
  group_by(subject) %>%
  dplyr::summarise(mean_acc = mean(acc, na.rm = TRUE)) %>%
  filter(mean_acc > 0.8)

# Step 2: Join the mean accuracy back to the main dataset and exclude trials with accuracy < 80%
trial_data_acc_clean_L2 <- trial_data_rt_L2 %>%
  inner_join(subject_mean_acc_L2, by = "subject") %>%
  filter(acc==1) # only use accurate responses for fixation analysis
```

419 **RTs.** There is much debate on how to handle RT data (see [Miller, 2023](#)). Because of this.

420 we leave it up to the reader and researcher to decide what to do with RTs. In the current example
 421 we ignore RTs.

422 **Sampling rate.** While most commercial eye-trackers sample at a constant rate, data
 423 captured by webcams are widely inconsistent. Below is some code to calculate the sampling rate
 424 of each participant. Ideally, you should not have a sampling rate less than 5 Hz. It has been
 425 recommended you drop those values ([Bramlett & Wiener, 2024](#)) The below function
 426 `analyze_sample_rate()` calculates the sampling rate for each subject and each trial
 427 in our eye-tracking dataset (`edat_L2`). The function provides overall statistics, including the
 428 median (used by ([Bramlett & Wiener, 2024](#))) and standard deviation of sampling rates in your

429 experiment, and also generates a histogram of median sampling rates by subject. Looking at
430 Figure 4, the sampling rate ranges from 5 to 35 Hz with a median sampling rate of 21.56. This
431 corresponds to previous webcam eye-tracking work (e.g., (Bramlett & Wiener, 2024; Prystauka et
432 al., 2024))

```
samp_rate_L2 <- analyze_sampling_rate(edat_L2)
```

433 Overall Median Sampling Rate (Hz): 21.56171771

434 Overall Standard Deviation of Sampling Rate (Hz): 7.399937723

435

436 Sampling Rate by Trial:

437 # A tibble: 10,665 x 5

438 # Groups: subject [60]

	subject	trial	max_time	n_times	SR
	<fct>	<fct>	<dbl>	<int>	<dbl>
441	1	12102265	8	4895	108 22.1
442	2	12102265	11	4920.	112 22.8
443	3	12102265	15	4911.	79 16.1
444	4	12102265	17	4916.	113 23.0
445	5	12102265	20	4903.	112 22.8
446	6	12102265	21	1826.	40 21.9
447	7	12102265	28	4917.	114 23.2
448	8	12102265	31	4913.	79 16.1
449	9	12102265	34	4948.	88 17.8
450	10	12102265	35	4901.	93 19.0

451 # i 10,655 more rows

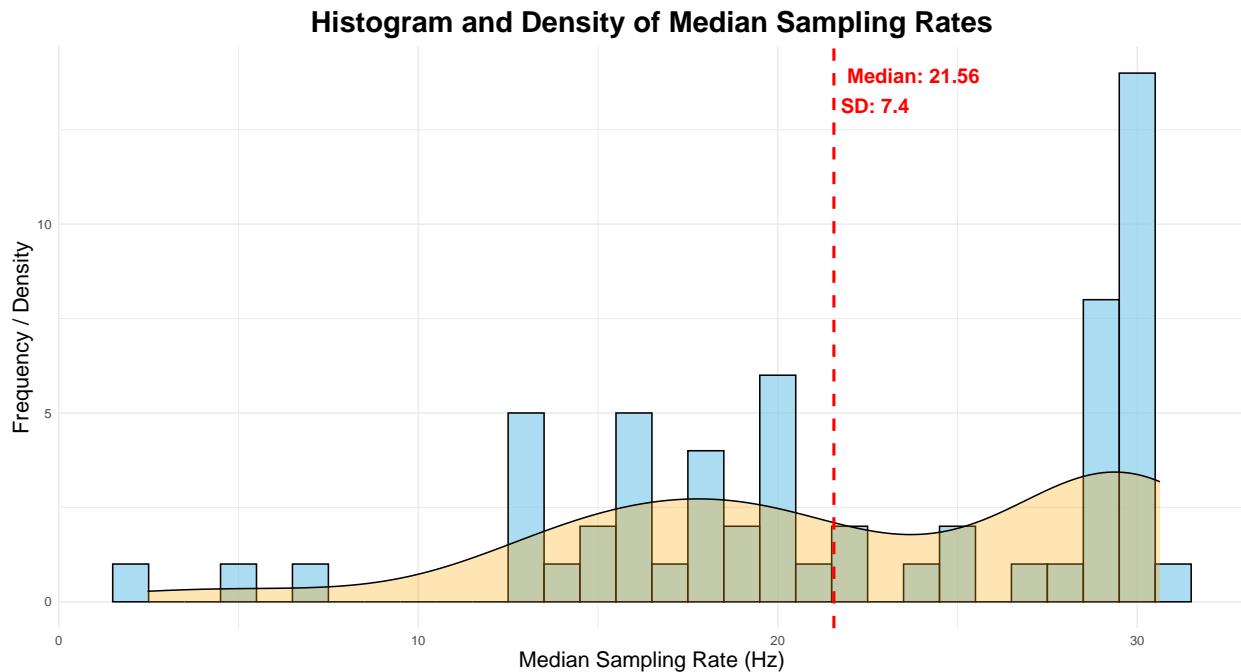
452

453 Median Sampling Rate by Subject:

```
454 # A tibble: 60 x 2
455   subject    med_SR
456   <fct>     <dbl>
457   1 12102265  21.9
458   2 12102286  30.6
459   3 12102530  19.9
460   4 12110559  29.3
461   5 12110579  13.3
462   6 12110585  30.1
463   7 12110586  14.8
464   8 12110600  2.47
465   9 12110638  29.0
466  10 12110685  19.5
467 # i 50 more rows
```

Figure 4

Participant sampling-rate for L2 experiment. A histogram and overlayed density plot shows median sampling rate by participant. the overall median and SD is highlighted in red.



When using the above function, separate dataframes are produced by-participants and

by-trial. These can be added to the behavioral dataframe using the below code.

```
# Extract by-subject and by-trial sampling rates from the result
subject_sampling_rate_L2 <- samp_rate_L2$median_SR_by_subject # Sampling rate by subject
trial_sampling_rate_L2 <- samp_rate_L2$SR_by_trial # Sampling rate by trial
trial_sampling_rate_L2$subject<-as.factor(trial_sampling_rate_L2$subject)

# Assuming target_data is your other dataset that contains subject and trial information
# Append the by-subject sampling rate to target_data (based on subject)
subject_sampling_rate_L2$subject <- as.factor(subject_sampling_rate_L2$subject)

# Assuming target_data is your other dataset that contains subject and trial information
```

```
# Append the by-subject sampling rate to target_data (based on subject)
trial_sampling_rate_L2$subject<-as.factor(trial_sampling_rate_L2$subject)

# Assuming target_data is your other dataset that contains subject and trial information
# Append the by-subject sampling rate to target_data (based on subject)
subject_sampling_rate_L2$subject <- as.factor(subject_sampling_rate_L2$subject)

trial_data_acc_clean_L2$subject <- as.factor(trial_data_acc_clean_L2$subject)

target_data_with_subject_SR_L2 <- trial_data_acc_clean_L2 %>%
  left_join(subject_sampling_rate_L2, by = "subject")

target_data_with_subject_SR_L2$trial <- as.factor(target_data_with_subject_SR_L2$trial)

# Append the by-trial sampling rate to target_data (based on subject and trial)
target_data_with_full_SR_L2 <- target_data_with_subject_SR_L2 %>%
  select(subject, trial, med_SR)%>%
  full_join(trial_sampling_rate_L2, by = c("subject", "trial"))

trial_data_L2 <- left_join(trial_data_acc_clean_L2, target_data_with_full_SR_L2, by=c("s
```

470 Now we can use this information to filter out data with poor sampling rates. Users can use

471 the `filter_sampling_rate()` function to either (1) throw out data, by-participant, by-trial, or
 472 both, or (2) label sampling rates below a certain threshold as bad (TRUE or FALSE). Let's use the
 473 `filter_sampling_rate()` function to do this. We will use our `trial_data_L2` object.

474 We leave it up to the user to decide what to do with low sampling rates and make no

475 specific recommendations here. In our case we are going to remove the data by-participant and
 476 by-trial (setting `action = “both”`) if sampling frequency is below 5hz (`threshold=5`). The
 477 `filter_sampling_rate()` function is designed to process a dataset containing participant-level

478 and trial-level sampling rates. It allows the user to either filter out data that falls below a certain
 479 sampling rate threshold or simply label it as “bad”. The function gives flexibility by allowing the
 480 threshold to be applied at the participant-level, trial-level, or both. It also lets the user decide
 481 whether to remove the data or flag it as below the threshold without removing it. If `action =`
 482 `remove`, the function will output how many subjects and trials were removed by on the threshold.

```
filter_edat_L2 <- filter_sampling_rate(trial_data_L2, threshold = 5,
                                         action = "remove",
                                         by = "both")
```

483 The message produced states that 1 subject is thrown out along with 107 trials (trials
 484 associated with the 1 subject).

485 **Out-of-bounds (outside of screen).** It is important that we do not include points that fall
 486 outside the standardized coordinates (0,1). The `gaze_oob()` function calculates how many of the
 487 data points fall outside the standardized range. Here we need our eye-tracking data (`edat_L2`).
 488 Running the `gaze_oob()` function returns a table listing how many data points fall outside this
 489 range (total, X and Y), and also provides percentages (see Table 3). This information would be
 490 useful to include in the final paper.

```
oob_data_L2 <- gaze_oob(edat_L2)
```

491 [1] "/home/runner/work/L2_VWP_Webcam/L2_VWP_Webcam/_manuscript/Figures/oob_data_L2.png"

492 We can also add add by-participant and by-trial out of bounds data to our behavioral,
 493 trial-level, data (`filter_edat_L2`) and finally exclude participants and trials with more than 30%
 494 missing data. The value of 30 is just a suggestion and should not be used as a rule of thumb for all
 495 studies nor are we endorsing this value.

```

remove_missing <- oob_data_L2 %>%
  select(subject, total_missing_percentage) %>%
  left_join(filter_edat_L2, by = "subject") %>%
  filter(total_missing_percentage < 30) %>%
  na.omit()
  
```

496 ***Eye-tracking data***

497 **Convergence and confidence.** In the eye-tracking data we need to remove rows with poor
 498 convergence and confidence scores in our eye-tracking data. The `convergence` column refers to
 499 WebGazer.js confidence in finding a face (and accurately predicting eye movements). Confidence
 500 values vary from 0 to 1, and numbers less than 0.5 suggest that the model has probably converged.
 501 `face_conf` represents the support vector machine (SVM) classifier score for the face model fit.
 502 This score indicates how strongly the image under the model resembles a face. Values vary from 0
 503 to 1, and here numbers greater than 0.5 are indicative of a good model fit. In our `edat_L2` object
 504 we filter out convergence less than 0.5 and face confidence greater than 0.5 and save it to
 505 `edat_1_L2`

```

edat_1_L2 <- edat_L2 %>%
  dplyr::filter(convergence <= .5, face_conf >= .5) # remove poor convergnce and face conf
  
```

506 **Combining eye and trial-level data.** Next, we will combine the eye-tracking data and
 507 behavioral data. In this case, we'll use `right_join` to add the behavioral data to the eye-tracking
 508 data. This ensures that all rows from the eye-tracking data are preserved, even if there isn't a
 509 matching entry in the behavioral data (missing values will be filled with NA). The resulting object
 510 is called `dat_L2`. We use the `distinct()` function afterward to remove any duplicate rows that
 511 may arise during the join

```
dat_L2 <- right_join(edat_1_L2,remove_missing, by = c("subject","trial"))

dat_L2 <- dat_L2 %>%
  distinct() # make sure to remove duplicate rows
```

512 **Areas of Interest**

513 ***Zone coordinates***

514 In the lab, we can control every aspect of the experiment. Online we cant do this.

515 Participants are going to be completing the experiment under a variety of conditions. This

516 includes using different computers, with very different screen dimensions. To control for this,

517 Gorilla outputs standardized zone coordinates (labeled as x_pred_normalised and

518 y_pred_normalised in the eye-tracking file) . As discussed in the Gorilla documentation, the

519 Gorilla lays everything out in a 4:3 frame and makes that frame as big as possible. The

520 normalized coordinates are then expressed relative to this frame; for example, the coordinate 0.5,

521 0.5 will always be the center of the screen, regardless of the size of the participant's screen. We

522 used the normalized coordinates in our analysis (in general, you should always use normalized

523 coordinates). However, there are a few different ways to specify the four coordinates of the screen,

524 which I think are worth highlighting here.

525 **Quadrant approach.** One way is to make the AOIs as big as possible, dividing the screen

526 into four quadrants. This approach has been used in several studies (e.g., (Bramlett & Wiener,

527 2024; Prystauka et al., 2024)).@tbl-quadcor lists coordinates for the quadrant approach and

528 Figure 5 shows how each quadrant looks in standardized space.

529 [1] "/home/runner/work/L2_VWP_Webcam/L2_VWP_Webcam/_manuscript/Figures/aoi-quad.png"

530 We plot all the fixations in each of the quadrants highlighted in different colors (Figure 5),

531 removing points outside the standardized screen space.

532 We plot all the fixations in each of the quadrants highlighted in different colors (Figure 5),

533 removing points outside the standardized screen space. As a note, we have decided to use an outer

Figure 5

AOI coordinates in standardized space using the quadrant approach

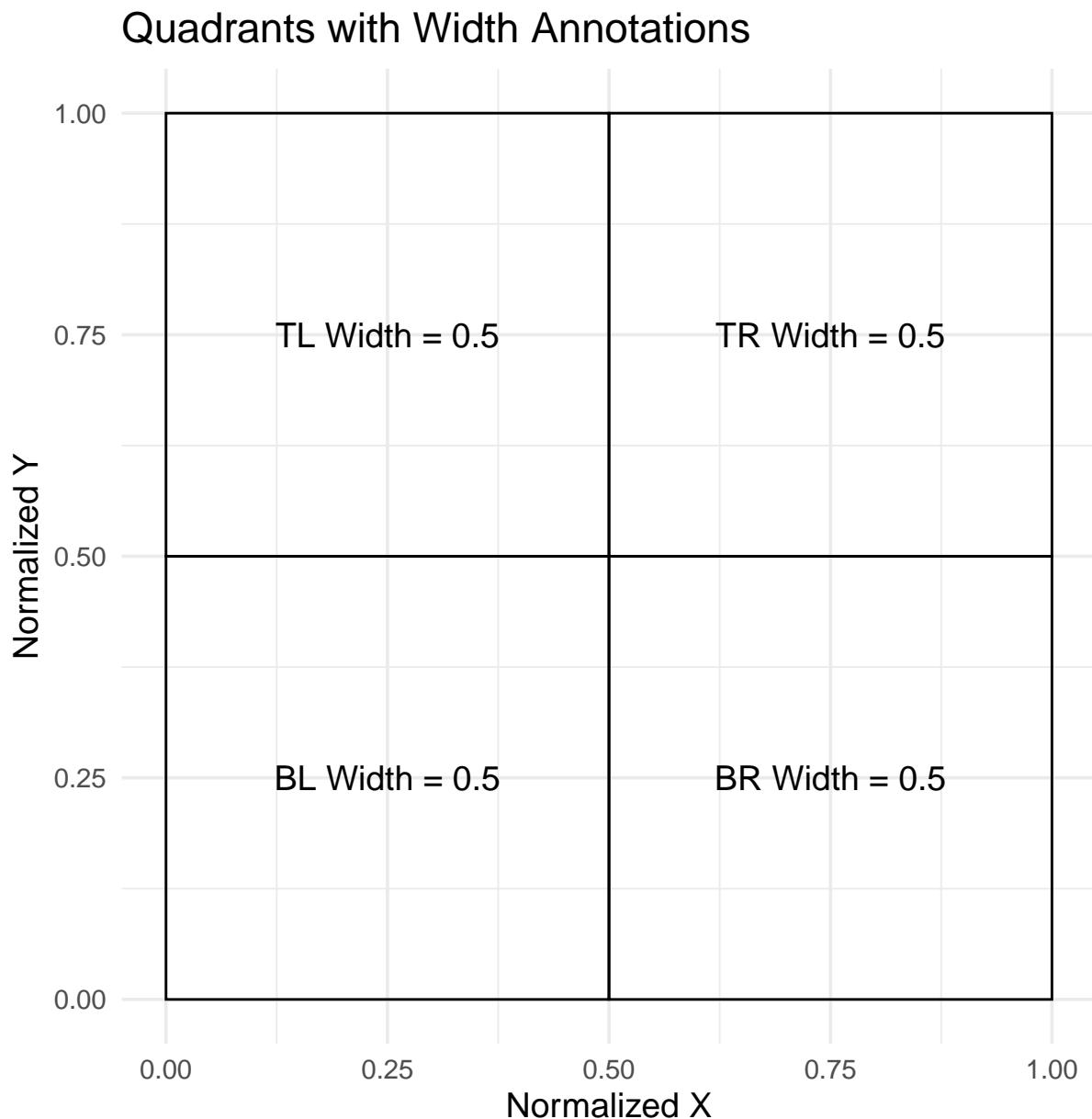
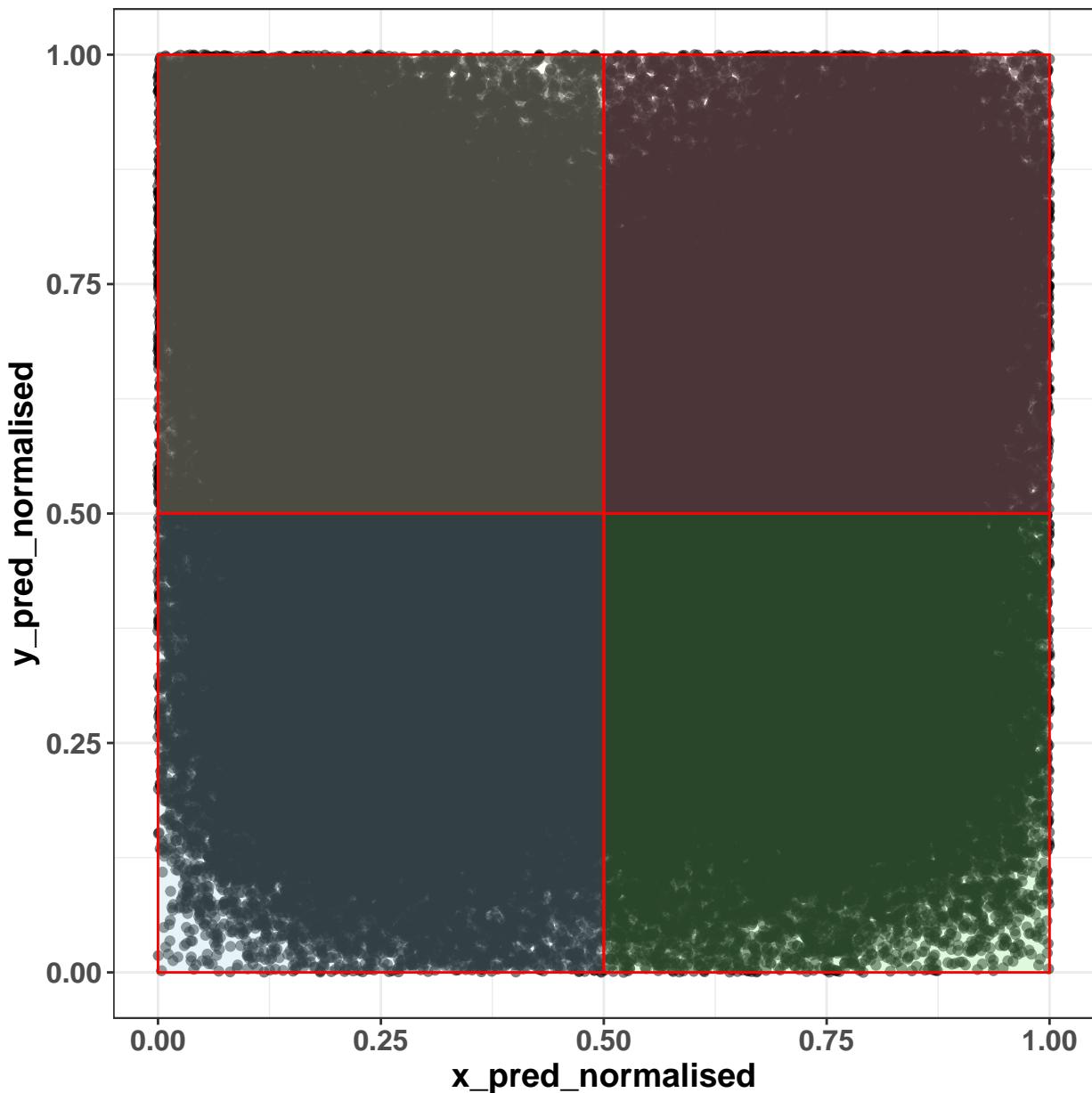


Figure 6

All looks in each of the screen quadrants



534 edge approach here (eliminating eye fixations that extend beyond the screen coordinates).
535 Bramlett and Wiener (2024) have suggested an inner-edge approach and we may add this
536 functionality once more testing is done. For now, we believe that the outer edge approach leads to
537 the least amount of bias in the eye-tracking pipeline.

538 ***Matching conditions with screen locations.*** The goal of the provided code is to assign
539 condition codes (e.g., Target, Unrelated, Unrelated2, and Cohort) to each image in the dataset
540 based on the screen location where the image is displayed (e.g., TL, TR, BL, BR).

541 For each trial, the images are dynamically placed at different screen locations, and the
542 code maps each image to its corresponding condition based on these locations.

```
# Assuming your data is in a data frame called dat_L2  
  
dat_L2 <- dat_L2 %>%  
  
  mutate(  
  
    Target = case_when(  
  
      typetl == "target" ~ TL,  
  
      typetr == "target" ~ TR,  
  
      typebl == "target" ~ BL,  
  
      typebr == "target" ~ BR,  
  
      TRUE ~ NA_character_ # Default to NA if no match  
  
    ),  
  
    Unrelated = case_when(  
  
      typetl == "unrelated1" ~ TL,  
  
      typetr == "unrelated1" ~ TR,  
  
      typebl == "unrelated1" ~ BL,  
  
      typebr == "unrelated1" ~ BR,  
  
      TRUE ~ NA_character_  
  
    ),  
  
    Unrelated2 = case_when(  
  
```

```
    typetl == "unrelated2" ~ TL,
    typetr == "unrelated2" ~ TR,
    typebl == "unrelated2" ~ BL,
    typebr == "unrelated2" ~ BR,
    TRUE ~ NA_character_
),
Cohort = case_when(
    typetl == "cohort" ~ TL,
    typetr == "cohort" ~ TR,
    typebl == "cohort" ~ BL,
    typebr == "cohort" ~ BR,
    TRUE ~ NA_character_
)
```

In addition to tracking the condition of each image during randomized trials, a custom function, `find_location()`, determines the specific screen location of each image by comparing it against the list of possible locations. This function ensures that the appropriate location is identified or returns NA if no match exists. Specifically, `find_location()` first checks if the image is NA (missing). If the image is NA, the function returns NA, meaning that there's no location to find for this image. If the image is not NA, the function creates a vector called `loc_names` that lists the names of the possible locations. It then attempts to match the given image with the locations. If a match is found, it returns the name of the location (e.g., TL, TR, BL, or BR) of the image.

```
# Apply the function to each of the targ, cohort, rhyme, and unrelated columns  
  
dat_colnames_L2 <- dat_L2 %>%  
  rowwise() %>%
```

```

mutate(
  targ_loc = find_location(c(TL, TR, BL, BR), Target),
  cohort_loc = find_location(c(TL, TR, BL, BR), Cohort),
  unrelated_loc = find_location(c(TL, TR, BL, BR), Unrelated),
  unrealted2_loc= find_location(c(TL, TR, BL, BR), Unrelated2),
) %>%
ungroup()

```

552 Once we do this we can use `assign_aoi()` to loop through our object called

553 `dat_colnames_L2` and assign locations (i.e., TR, TL, BL, BR) to where participants looked at on

554 the screen. This requires the x and y coordinates and the location of our aois `aoi_loc`. Here we

555 are using the quadrant approach. This function will label non-looks and off screen coordinates

556 with NA. To make it easier to read we change the numerals assigned by the function to actual

557 screen locations (e.g., TL, TR, BL, BR).

```

assign_L2 <- webgazeR::assign_aoi(dat_colnames_L2,X="x_pred_normalised", Y="y_pred_norma
AOI_L2 <- assign_L2 %>%
  mutate(loc1 = case_when(
    AOI==1 ~ "TL",
    AOI==2 ~ "TR",
    AOI==3 ~ "BL",
    TRUE ~ "NA"
  )
)

```

```
AOI==4 ~ "BR"
))
)
```

558 In AOI_L2 we label looks to Targets, Unrelated, and Cohort items with 1 (looked) and 0
 559 (no look).

```
AOI_L2$target <- ifelse(AOI_L2$loc1==AOI_L2$targ_loc, 1, 0) # if in coordinates 1, if no
AOI_L2$unrelated <- ifelse(AOI_L2$loc1 == AOI_L2$unrelated_loc, 1, 0) # if in coordinates
AOI_L2$unrelated2 <- ifelse(AOI_L2$loc1 == AOI_L2$unrealted2_loc, 1, 0) # if in coordinates
AOI_L2$cohort <- ifelse(AOI_L2$loc1 == AOI_L2$cohort_loc, 1, 0) # if in coordinates 1, if no
```

560 The locations of looks need to be “gathered” or pivoted into long format—that is,
 561 converted from separate columns into a single column. This transformation makes the data easier
 562 to visualize and analyze. We use the `pivot_longer()` function from the `tidyverse` to combine
 563 the columns (Target, Unrelated, Unrelated2, and Cohort) into a single column called `condition1`.
 564 Additionally, we create another column called `Looks`, which contains the values from the original
 565 columns (e.g., 0 or 1 for whether the area was looked at).

```
dat_long_aoi_me_L2 <- AOI_L2 %>%
  select(subject, trial, condition, target, cohort, unrelated, unrelated2, time, x_pred,
  pivot_longer(
    cols = c(target, unrelated, unrelated2, cohort),
    names_to = "condition1",
    values_to = "Looks"
  )
```

566 We further clean up the object by first cleaning up the condition codes. They have a
 567 numeral appended to them and that should be removed. We then adjust the timing in the
 568 `gaze_sub_L2_comp` object by aligning time to the actual audio onset. To achieve this, we subtract
 569 `RT_audio` from time for each trial. In addition, we subtract 300 ms from this to account for the
 570 100 ms of silence at the beginning of each audio clip and 200 ms to account for the oculomotor
 571 delay when planning an eye movement Viviani (1990). Additionally, we set our interest period
 572 between 0 ms (audio onset) and 2000 ms. This was chosen based on the time course figures in
 573 Sarrett et al. (2022). It is important that you choose your interest area carefully and preferably
 574 you preregister it. The interest period you choose can have drastic We also filter out gaze
 575 coordinates that fall outside the standardized window, ensuring only valid data points are retained.
 576 The resulting object `gaze_sub_long_L2` provides the corrected time column spanning from -200
 577 ms to 2000 ms relative to stimulus onset with looks outside the screen removed.

```

# repalce the numbers appended to conditions that somehow got added

dat_long_aoi_me_comp <- dat_long_aoi_me_L2 %>%
  mutate(condition = str_replace(condition, "TCUU-SPENG\\d*", "TCUU-SPENG")) %>%
  mutate(condition = str_replace(condition, "TCUU-SPSP\\d*", "TCUU-SPSP")) %>%
  na.omit()
  
```

```

# dat_long_aoi_me_comp has condition corrected

gaze_sub_L2_long <-dat_long_aoi_me_comp%>%
  group_by(subject, trial, condition) %>%
  mutate(time = (time-RT_audio)-300) %>% # subtract audio rt onset and account for occ m
  filter(time >= -200, time < 2000) %>%
  dplyr::filter(x_pred_normalised > 0,
  x_pred_normalised < 1,
  y_pred_normalised > 0,
  
```

```
y_pred_normalised < 1)
```

578 **Samples to bins**

579 ***Downsampling***

580 Downsampling into smaller time bins is a common practice in gaze data analysis, as it
581 helps create a more manageable dataset and reduces noise. When using research grade
582 eye-trackers, downsampling is often not needed. However, with consumer-based webcam
583 eye-tracking it is recommended you downsample your data so participants have consistent bin
584 sizes (e.g., ([Slim & Hartsuiker, 2023](#))). In webgazeR we included the `downsample_gaze()`
585 function to assist with this process. We apply this function to the `gaze_sub_L2_long` object, and
586 set the `bin.length` argument to 100, which groups the data into 100-millisecond intervals. This
587 adjustment means that each bin now represents a 100 ms passage of time. We specify time as the
588 variable to base these bins on, allowing us to focus on broader patterns over time rather than
589 individual millisecond fluctuations. There is no agreed upon downsampling value, but with
590 webcam data larger bins are preferred ([Slim & Hartsuiker, 2023](#)).

591 In addition, the `downsample_gaze()` allows you to aggregate across other variables, such
592 as condition, condition1, and use the newly created timebins variable, which represents the time
593 intervals over which we aggregate data. The resulting downsampled dataset, output as Table 5,
594 provides a simplified and more concise view of gaze patterns, making it easier to analyze and
595 interpret broader trends.

```
gaze_sub_L2 <- webgazeR::downsample_gaze(gaze_sub_L2_long, bin.length=100, timevar="time")
```

596 [1] "/home/runner/work/L2_VWP_Webcam/L2_VWP_Webcam/_manuscript/Figures/downsample_table.R"

597 To simplify the analysis, we combine the two unrelated conditions and average them (this
598 is for the proportional plots).

```
# Average Fix for unrelated and unrelated2, then combine with the rest
gaze_sub_L2_avg <- gaze_sub_L2 %>%
  group_by(condition, time_bin) %>%
  summarise(
    Fix = mean(Fix[condition1 %in% c("unrelated", "unrelated2")], na.rm = TRUE),
    condition1 = "unrelated", # Assign the combined label
    .groups = "drop"
  ) %>%
  # Combine with rows that do not include unrelated or unrelated2
  bind_rows(gaze_sub_L2 %>% filter(!condition1 %in% c("unrelated", "unrelated2")))
```

599 The above will not include the subject variable. If you want to keep participant-level data

600 we need to add `subject` to the `aggvars` argument.

```
# add subject-level data
gaze_sub_L2_id <- webgazeR::downsample_gaze(gaze_sub_L2_long, bin.length=100, timevar="t")
```

601 Aggregation is an optional step. If you do not plan to analyze proportion data, and instead
 602 what time binned data with binary outcomes preserved please set the `aggvars` argument to
 603 “none.” This will return a time binned column, but will not aggregate over other variables.

```
# get back trial level data with no aggregation
gaze_sub_id <- downsample_gaze(gaze_sub_L2_long, bin.length=100, timevar="time", aggvars=
```

604 We need to make sure we only have one unrelated value.

```
gaze_sub_id <- gaze_sub_id %>%
  mutate(condition1 = ifelse(condition1=="unrelated2", "unrelated", condition1))
```

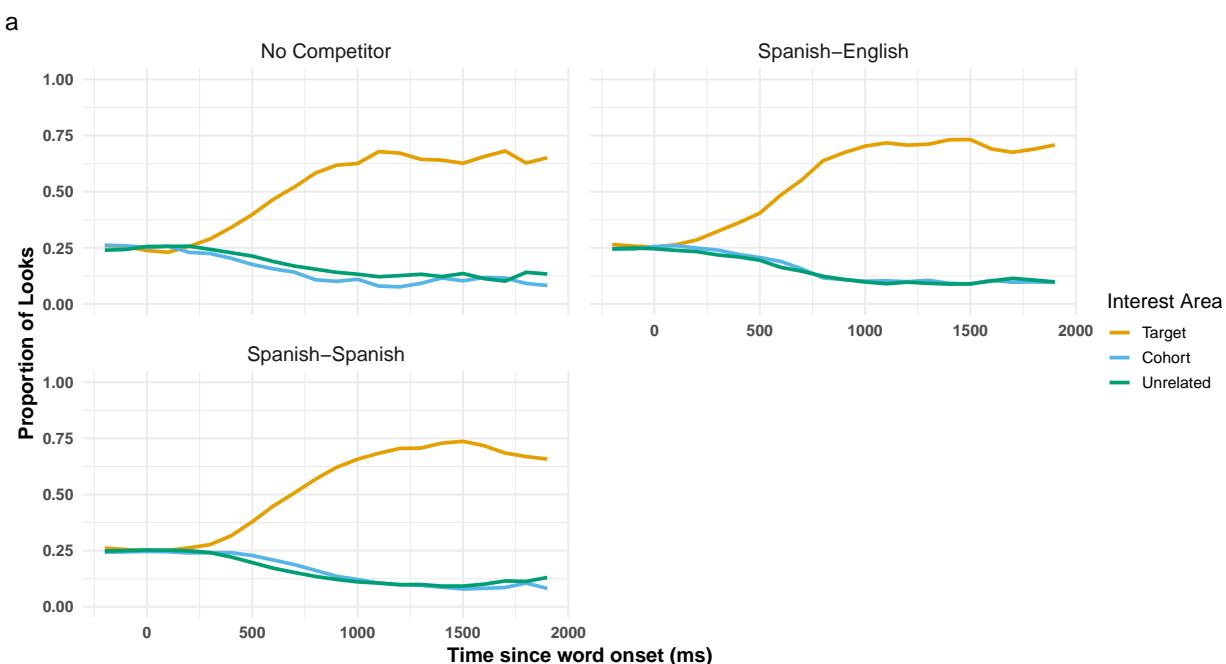
605 Visualizing time course data

606 To simplify plotting your time-course data, we have created the
 607 `plot_IA_proportions()` function. This function takes several arguments. The `ia_column`
 608 argument specifies the column containing your Interest Area (IA) labels. The `time_column`
 609 argument requires the name of your time bin column, and the `proportion_column` argument
 610 specifies the column containing fixation or look proportions. Additional arguments allow you to
 611 specify custom names for each IA in the `ia_mapping` argument, enabling you to label them as
 612 desired. In order to use this function, you must use the `downsample_gaze()` function.

613 Below we have plotted the time course data in Figure 7 for each condition. By default the
 614 graphs are using a color-blind friendly palette from the `ggokabeito` package (Barrett, 2021).
 615 Because these are ggplot objects, you can further modify if you choose.

Figure 7

Comparison of L2 competition effect in the Spanish-Spanish condition, the Spanish-English condition, and the no competition condition.



616 Gorilla provided coordinates

617 Thus far, we have used the coordinates representing the four quadrants of the screen.
 618 However, Gorilla provides their own quadrants representing image location on the screen. To the
 619 authors' knowledge, these quadrants have not been looked at in any studies reporting eye-tracking
 620 results. Let's examine how reasonable our results are with the Gorilla provided coordinates.

621 We will use the function `extract_aois()` to get the standardized coordinates for each
 622 quadrant on screen. You can use the `zone_names` argument to get the zones you want to use. In
 623 our example, we want the TL, BR, BL TR coordinates. We input the object from above
 624 `vwp_paths_filtered_L2` that contains all our eye-tracking files and extract the coordinates we
 625 want. These are labeled in Table 6. In Figure 8 we can see that the AOIs are a bit smaller than then
 626 when using the quadrant approach. We can take these coordinates and use them in our analysis.

627 We are not going to highlight the steps here as they are the same as above. we are just
 628 replacing the coordinates.

```
# apply the extract_aois fucntion
aois_L2 <- extract_aois(vwp_paths_filtered_L2, zone_names = c("TL", "BR", "TR", "BL"))

assign_L2_gor <- webgazeR::assign_aoi(dat_colnames_L2, X="x_pred_normalised", Y="y_pred_m
```

629 Visualizing time course data with Gorilla coordinates

630 The Gorilla provided coordinates show a similar pattern to the quadrant approach.
 631 However, the time course looks a bit nosier given the smaller AOIs.

632 Modeling data

633 When analyzing VWP data there are many analytic approaches to choose from (e.g.,
 634 growth curve analysis (GCA), cluster permutation tests (CPT), generalized additive mixed models
 635 (GAMMS), logistic multilevel models, divergent point analysis, etc.), and a lot has already been
 636 written describing these methods and applying them to visual world fixation data from the lab (see
 637 (Ito & Knoeferle, 2023; McMurray & Kutlu, n.d.; Stone et al., 2021)) and online (Bramlett &

Figure 8

Gorilla provided standardized coordinates for the four quadrants on the screen

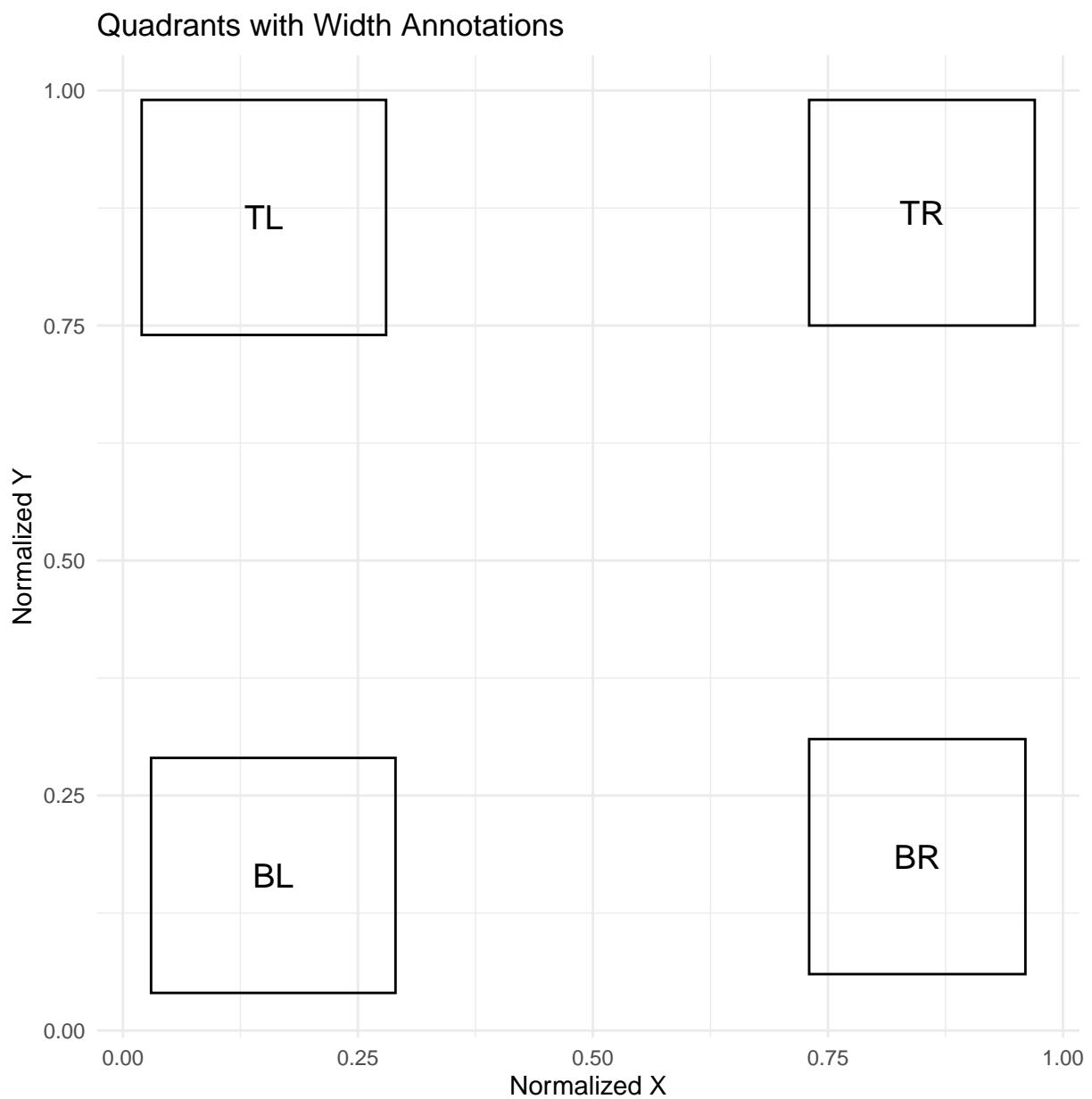
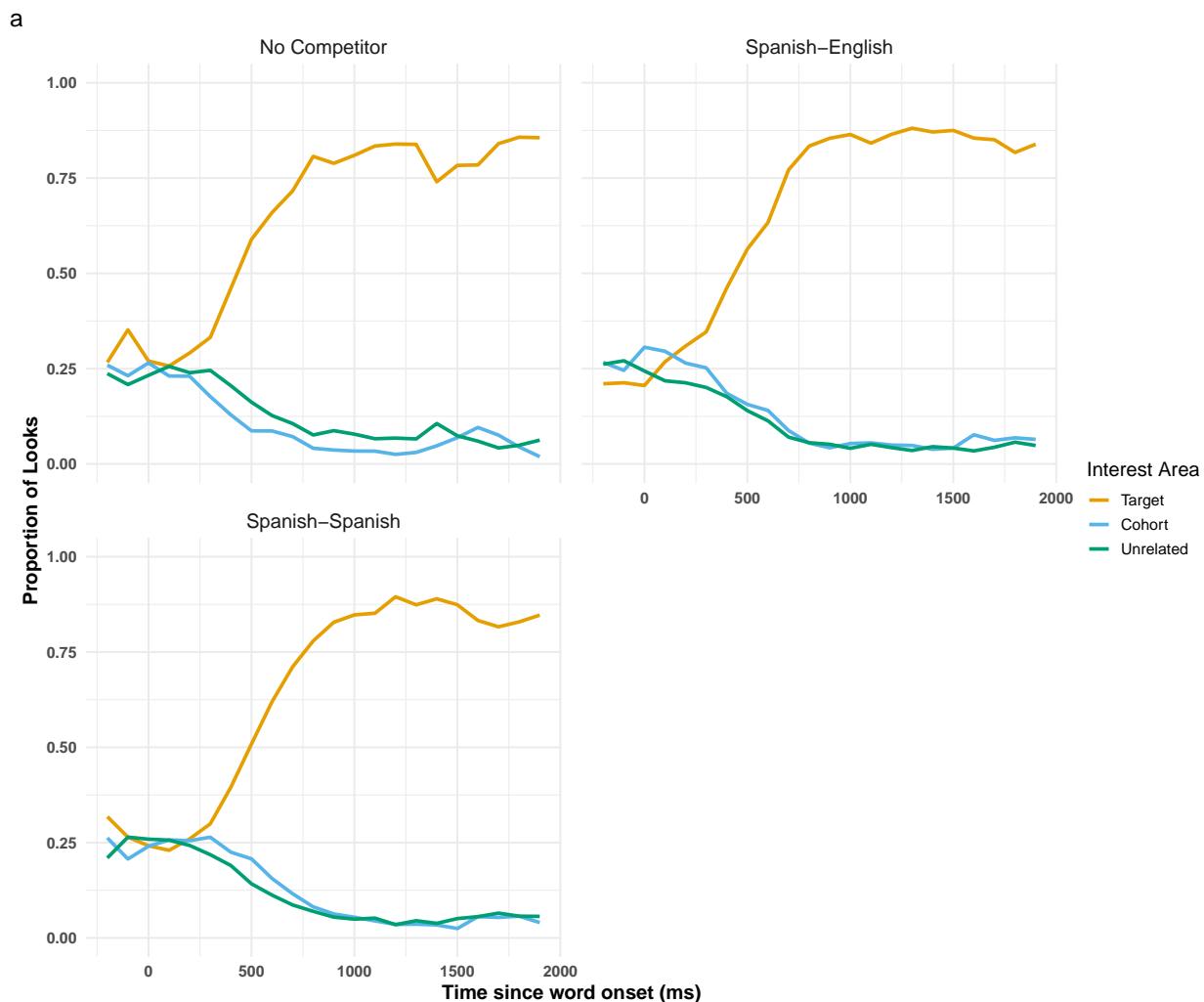


Figure 9

Comparison of competition effects with Gorilla standardized coordinates



638 Wiener, 2024). This tutorial's goal, however, is to not evaluate different analytic approaches and
 639 tell readers what they should use. All methods have there strengths and weaknesses (see Ito &
 640 Knoeferle, 2023). Nevertheless, statistical modeling should be guided by the questions researchers
 641 have and thus serious thought needs to be given to the proper analysis. In the VWP, there are two
 642 general questions one might be interested in: (1) Are there any overall difference in fixations
 643 between conditions and (2) Are there any time course differences in fixations between conditions.

644 With our data, one question we might want to answer is if there are any fixation differences
 645 between the cohort and unrelated conditions across the time course. One statistical approach we

646 chose to highlight to answer this question is a cluster permutation analysis (CPA). The CPA is
647 suitable for testing differences between two conditions or groups over an interest period while
648 controlling for multiple comparisons and autocorrelation.

649 **CPT**

650 CPA is a technique that has become increasingly popular, particularly in the field of
651 cognitive neuropsychology, for analyzing MEG and EEG data ([Maris & Oostenveld, 2007](#)). While
652 its adoption in VWP studies has been relatively slow, it is now beginning to appear more
653 frequently ([Huang & Snedeker, 2020](#); [Ito & Knoeferle, 2023](#)). Notably, its use is growing in
654 online eye-tracking studies (see ([Slim et al., 2024](#); [Slim & Hartsuiker, 2023](#); [Vos et al., 2022](#))).

655 Before I show you how to apply this method to the current dataset, I want to briefly explain
656 what CPT is. The CPT is a data-driven approach that increases statistical power while controlling
657 for Type I errors across multiple comparisons—exactly what we need when analyzing fixations
658 across the time course.

659 The clustering procedure involves three main steps:

660 1. Cluster Formation: With our data, a multilevel logistic models is conducted for every
661 data point (condition by time). Adjacent data points that surpass the mass univariate significance
662 threshold (e.g., $p < .05$) are combined into clusters. The cluster-level statistic, typically the sum of
663 the t-values (or F-values) within the cluster, is computed. By clustering adjacent significant data
664 points, this step accounts for autocorrelation by considering temporal dependencies rather than
665 treating each data point as independent.

666 2. Null Distribution Creation: A surrogate null distribution is generated by randomly
667 permuting the conditions within subjects. This randomization is repeated n times (here 1000), and
668 the cluster-level statistic is computed for each permutation. This step addresses multiple
669 comparisons by constructing a distribution of cluster statistics under the null hypothesis, ensuring
670 that family-wise error rates (FWER) are controlled.

671 3. Significance Testing: The cluster-level statistic from the observed (real) comparison is
672 compared to the null distribution. Clusters with statistics falling in the highest or lowest 2.5% of

673 the null distribution are considered significant (e.g., $p < 0.05$).

674 To preform CPT, we will load in the permutes ([Voeten, 2023](#)), permuco ([Frossard &](#)
 675 [Renaud, 2021](#)), and foreach ([& Weston, 2022](#)) packages in R so we can use the
 676 cluster.glmer() function to run a cluster permutation model with our gaze_sub_id dataset
 677 where each row in Looks denotes whether the AOI was fixated, with values of zero (not fixated)
 678 or one (fixated).

679 Below you find sample code to perform multilevel CPA in R (please see the Github
 680 repository for further code).

```
library(permutes) # cpa
library(permuco) # cpa
library(foreach) # for par processing

cpa.lme = permutes::clusterperm.glmer(Looks~ condition1_code + (1|subject) + (1|trial),
```

681 For the Spanish-Spanish condition, we observed one significant cluster from 500-1000 ms
 682 (see Table 7). Figure 10 highlights the significant cluster (shaded) for both the Spanish-Spanish
 683 and Spanish-English conditions. We see there is one significant cluster in both conditions.

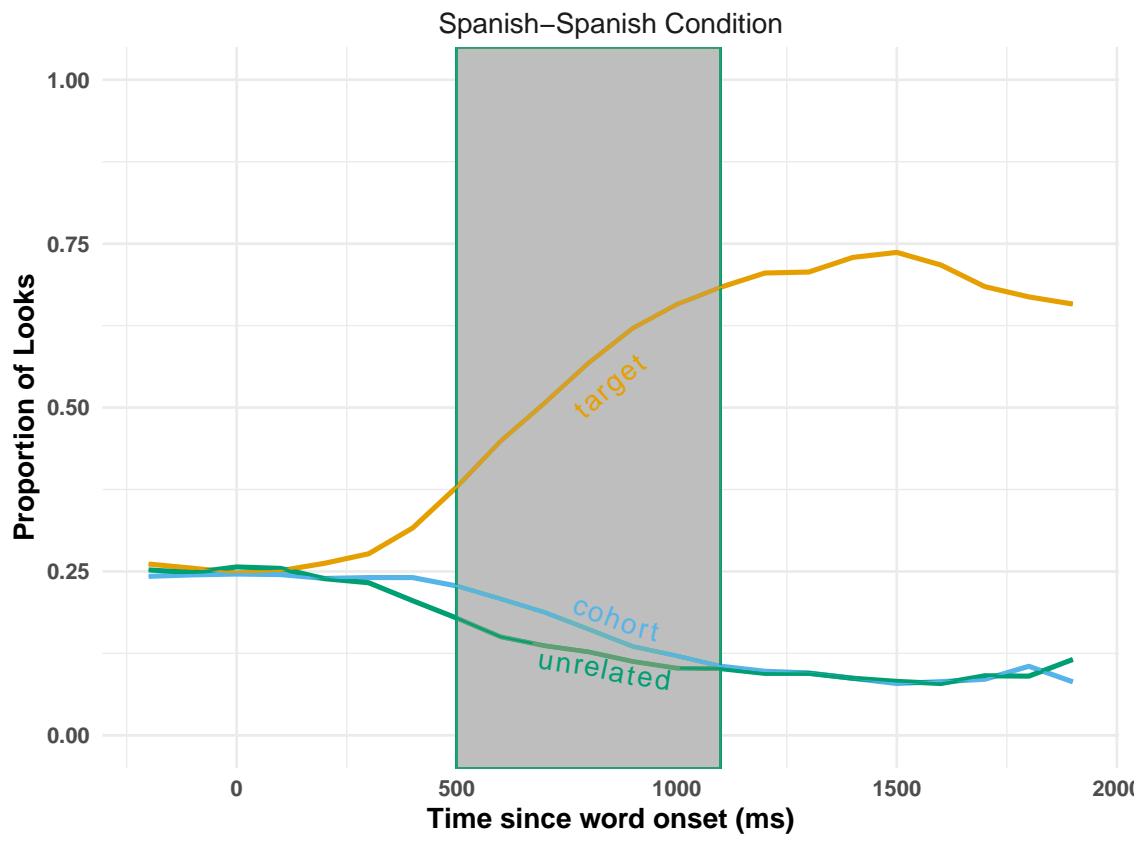
684 Discussion

685 Webcam eye-tracking is a relatively nascent technology, and as such, there is limited
 686 guidance available for researchers. To ameliorate this, we created a tutorial to assist new users of
 687 visual world webcam eye-tracking, using some of the best practices available [e.g., Bramlett and
 688 Wiener ([2024](#))]. To further facilitate this process, we created the webgazeR package, which
 689 contains several helper functions designed to streamline data preprocessing, analysis, and
 690 visualization.

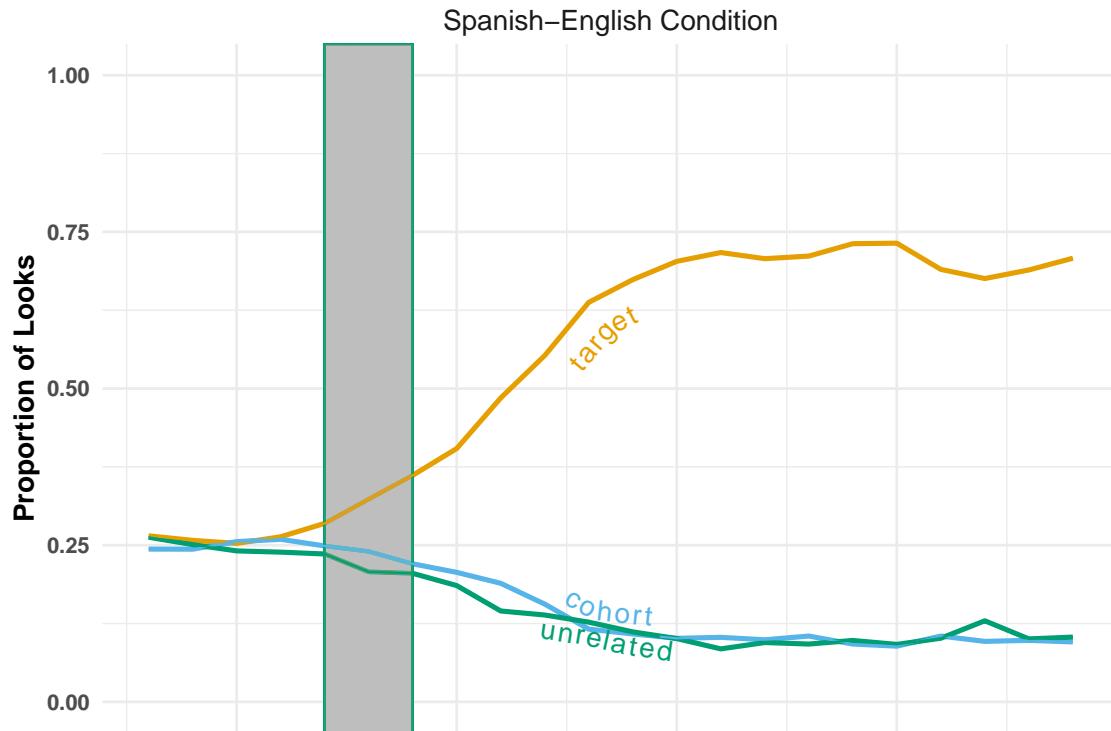
691 In this tutorial, we covered the basic steps of running a visual world webcam-based
 692 eye-tracking experiment. We highlighted these steps by using data from a cross-linguistic VWP
 693 looking at competitive processes in L2 speakers of Spanish. Specifically, we attempted to

Figure 10

Average looks in the cross-linguistic VWP task over time for the Spanish-Spanish condition (a) and the Spanish-English condition (b). The shaded rectangles indicate when cohort looks were greater than chance based on the CPA.



b



694 replicate the experiment by Sarrett et al. (2022) where they observed within- and between L2/L1
695 competition using carefully crafted materials.

696 While the main purpose of this tutorial was to highlight the steps needed to analyze
697 webcam eye-tracking data, replicating Sarrett et al. (2022) allowed us to not only assess whether
698 within and between L2/L1 competition can be found in a spoken word recognition VWP
699 experiment online (one of the first studies to do so), but also provide insight in how to run VWP
700 studies online and the issues associated with it.

701 Our conceptual replication findings are highly encouraging, demonstrating competition
702 effects both within (Spanish-Spanish condition) and across languages (Spanish-English
703 condition), closely paralleling the results reported by Sarrett et al. (2022). However, several
704 important methodological and sample differences warrant discussion.

705 A key methodological difference between our study and Sarrett et al. (2022) lies in the
706 approach used to analyze the time course of competition. While Sarrett et al. (2022) employed a
707 non-linear curve-fitting method (McMurray et al., 2010), we used CPA. This methodological
708 distinction limits our ability to address similar temporal questions. Nonetheless, the overall
709 temporal patterns are strikingly similar. For instance, our CPA revealed a significant cluster
710 starting at 500 ms, whereas Sarrett et al. (2022) identified competition effects emerging at
711 approximately 400 ms. This indicates a delay of about 100 ms in competition onset between
712 lab-based and online eye-tracking data. This delay, while notable, reflects a significant
713 improvement over previous webcam-based studies (Slim et al., 2024; e.g., Slim & Hartsuiker,
714 2023). It is important to emphasize, however, that CPA clusters cannot reliably be used to make
715 temporal inferences about the onset/offset of effects (Fields & Kuperberg, 2019; Ito & Knoeferle,
716 2023).

717 Our study also employed a truncated stimulus set, with only 250 trials compared to the
718 450 trials in Sarrett et al. (2022). Despite this reduction, the number of trials in our study remains
719 larger than most existing webcam-based studies. Even with the smaller set, we observed a similar
720 pattern of competition effects in both the Spanish-Spanish and Spanish-English conditions,

721 demonstrating the robustness of our findings.

722 Another notable difference is the recruitment strategy and participant screening. Sarrett et
723 al. (2022) recruited participants from a Spanish college course and used the LexTALE-Spanish
724 assessment (Izura et al., 2014) to evaluate Spanish proficiency. In contrast, our data were
725 collected via Prolific with limited filters, which only allowed us to screen for native language and
726 experience with another language. This constraint limited our ability to refine participant
727 selection further and likely contributed to differences in participant profiles. While Sarrett et al.
728 (2022) focused on adult L2 learners with known language proficiency levels, our sample included
729 a broader range of L2 speakers with limited checks on their language abilities. This may help
730 explain why we did not observe a cohort competition effect that persisted across the time course
731 as reported by Sarrett et al. (2022).

732 Overall, while the methodological and sample differences between the two studies are
733 notable, the similarities in the competition effects observed within and across languages reinforce
734 the robustness of these findings across different research settings. While we do not wish to
735 downplay our findings, a more systematic study is needed to ensure their generalizability.

736 **Limitations**

737 While the above suggests that webcam eye-tracking is a promising avenue for language
738 research, there are some issues that we ran into that need to be addressed. One issue is data loss
739 due to poor calibration. In our study, we had to throw out ~40% of our data due to poor
740 calibration. Other studies have shown numbers much higher [e.g., 73%; Slim and Hartsuiker
741 (2023)] and lower [e.g., 20%; Prystauka et al. (2024)]. Given this, it is still an open question as to
742 what contributes to better vs. poor data quality in webcam eye-tracking. To this end, we included
743 an assessment after the VWP that included questions on the participants' experimental set-ups and
744 overall experiences with the eye-tracking experiment. All questions are included Table 8.

745 **Poor vs. good calibrators**

746 In our experimental design, participants were branched based on whether they
747 successfully completed the experiment or failed calibration at any point. Table 2 highlights the

748 comparisons between good and poor calibrators. For the sake of brevity, we do not include
749 responses to all questions. You can look at all the responses at our repo. However, two key
750 differences emerge that may provide insight into factors influencing successful calibration.

751 One notable difference is the type of webcam used. Participants who failed calibration
752 predominantly reported using built-in webcams, whereas those who successfully calibrated
753 reported using a variety of external webcams. This suggests that built-in webcams may not
754 provide sufficient resolution for calibration in the experiment. Slim and Hartsuiker (2023)
755 performed some correlations looking at calibration score and webcam quality and noticed that
756 high frame rate correlated with a calibration scores.

757 Another difference lies in the participants' environmental setup. Individuals who failed
758 calibration were more likely to be in environments with natural light. Since natural light is known
759 to interfere with eye-tracking, it may have contributed to their inability to calibrate successfully.

760 We did not notice any other differences between those that successful calibrated vs. those
761 who did not. For researchers wanting to use webcam eye-tracking, they should try to make sure
762 participants are in rooms without natural light, and use good web cameras. While we tried to
763 emphasize this in our instructional videos, more explicit instruction may be needed. An avenue
764 for research research would be to compare lab based webcam eye-tracking to online based
765 webcam eye tracking to see if control of the environment can produce better results.

766 It is important to note here that Gorilla uses WebGazer.js (Papoutsaki et al., 2016) to
767 perform it's eye tracking. It is unclear if poor calibration results from the noise introduced by
768 participants' environments/equipments or if it is a function of the method itself, or both. We have
769 listed some equipment and environmental factors that may contribute to the poor performance;
770 however it could be the algorithm itself that is poor. There are other experimental platforms out
771 there that use different eye-tracking ML algorithms to perform webcam eye-tracking (e.g.,
772 labvanced; (Kaduk et al., 2024)). In labvanced, comapred to Gorilla they use head motion
773 tracking that measures the distance of the participant in front the screen to ensure head movement
774 is restricted to an acceptable range. Together this might make for a better eye-tracking experience

775 with less data thrown out. This should be investigated further.

776 [1] "/home/runner/work/L2_VWP_Webcam/L2_VWP_Webcam/_manuscript/Figures/poor_good_table.p

777 ***Generalizability to other platforms***

778 We demonstrated how to analyze webcam eye-tracking data from a Gorilla experiment
779 using WebGazer.js. While we were unable to validate this pipeline on other experimental
780 platforms using WebGazer.js, such as PCIbex (Zehr & Schwarz, 2018) or jsPsych (Leeuw, 2015),
781 we believe that this basic pipeline will generalize to those platforms, as WebGazer.js underlies
782 them all and provides consistent output. We encourage researchers to test this pipeline in their
783 own studies and report any issues on our GitHub repository. We are committed to continuing
784 improvements to webgazeR, ensuring that users can effectively analyze webcam eye-tracking data
785 with our package.

786 ***Power***

787 While we successfully demonstrated competition effects similar to Sarrett's study, we did
788 not conduct an a priori power analysis. With webcam eye-tracking, it has been recommended
789 running twice the number of participants from the original sample, or powering the study to detect
790 an effect size half as large as the original (Slim & Hartsuiker, 2023; also see Simonsohn, 2015).
791 We did attempt to increase our sample size 2x, but were unable to recruit enough participants
792 through Prolific. However, our sample size is similar to the lab based studies.

793 We strongly urge researchers to perform power analyses and justify their sample sizes
794 (Lakens, n.d.). While tools like G*Power (Faul et al., 2007) are available for this purpose, we
795 recommend power simulations using Monte Carlo or resampling methods on pilot or sample data
796 (Prystauka et al., 2024; see Slim & Hartsuiker, 2023). Several excellent R packages, such as
797 mixedpower (Kumle et al., 2021) and SIMR (Green & MacLeod, 2016) make such simulations
798 straightforward and accessible.

799 **Recommendations**

800 Based on our findings and limitations, we propose the following recommendations for
801 researchers conducting visual world webcam eye-tracking experiments.

802 **1. Prioritize external webcams**

803 Our questionnaire suggested that participants using external webcams had significantly
804 better calibration success compared to those relying on built-in webcams. External
805 webcams generally provide higher resolution and frame rates, which are critical for accurate
806 eye-tracking. Researchers should encourage participants to use external webcams whenever
807 possible.

808 **2. Optimize environmental conditions**

809 Natural light was a common factor in environments where calibration failed. Researchers
810 should advise participants to conduct experiments in rooms with controlled
811 lighting—ideally, artificial lighting with minimal glare or shadows—to reduce interference
812 with eye-tracking accuracy.

813 **3. Conduct a priori power analysis**

814 To ensure adequate statistical power, researchers should conduct a priori power analyses
815 either via GUI like GPower or perform Monte Carlo simulations/resampling on pilot data.
816 This step is particularly important for online studies, where sample variability can be higher
817 than in controlled lab environments.

818 **4. Collect detailed post-experiment feedback**

819 Including post-experiment questionnaires about participants' setups (e.g., webcam type,
820 browser, lighting conditions) can provide valuable insights into calibration success factors.
821 These data can help refine participant instructions and inclusion criteria for future studies.

822 By adhering to these recommendations, researchers can enhance the reliability and
823 generalizability of their webcam eye-tracking studies, ensuring the potential of this technology is
824 fully realized.

825 Conclusions

826 This work highlighted the steps required to process webcam eye-tracking data collected
827 via Gorilla, showcasing the potential of webcam-based eye-tracking for robust psycholinguistic
828 experimentation. With a standardized pipeline for processing eye-tracking data we hope we have
829 given researchers a clear path forward when collecting and analyzing visual word webcam
830 eye-tracking data.

831 Moreover, our findings demonstrate the feasibility of conducting high-quality online
832 experiments, paving the way for future research to address more nuanced questions about L2
833 processing and language comprehension more broadly. Additionally, further refinement of
834 webcam eye-tracking methodologies could enhance data precision and extend their applicability
835 to more complex experimental designs. This is an exciting time for eye-tracking research, with its
836 boundaries continuously expanding. We eagerly anticipate the advancements and possibilities that
837 the future of webcam eye-tracking will bring.

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Table 2*Participants with less than 100 trials*

subject	ntrials
12102265	2
12110638	55
12110829	59
12110878	59
12110897	60
12111234	57
12111244	58
12111363	58
12111663	57
12111703	58
12111869	60
12111960	46
12112152	59
12212113	56
12213826	99
12213965	59

Table 3*Out of bounds gaze statistics*

subject	total_points	outside_count	total_missing_percentage	x_outside_count	y_outside_count	x_outside_percentage	y_outside_percentage
12102265	6,197	1,132	18.27	202	947	3.26	15.28
12102286	11,765	354	3.01	267	181	2.27	1.54
12102530	9,025	385	4.27	244	147	2.70	1.63
12110559	11,890	416	3.50	194	222	1.63	1.87
12110579	5,822	1,063	18.26	697	436	11.97	7.49
12110585	13,974	776	5.55	83	694	0.59	4.97
12110586	5,281	216	4.09	176	77	3.33	1.46
12110600	731	1	0.14	1	0	0.14	0.00
12110638	4,647	1,056	22.72	996	159	21.43	3.42
12110685	6,356	1,099	17.29	1,006	241	15.83	3.79
12110713	12,647	1,107	8.75	787	538	6.22	4.25
12110751	10,028	995	9.92	475	570	4.74	5.68
12110829	4,016	671	16.71	510	223	12.70	5.55
12110878	847	27	3.19	13	16	1.53	1.89
12110890	7,683	454	5.91	204	251	2.66	3.27
12110891	8,746	2,277	26.03	867	1,579	9.91	18.05
12110897	295	0	0.00	0	0	0.00	0.00
12111092	5,039	1,053	20.90	556	606	11.03	12.03
12111234	4,018	524	13.04	90	440	2.24	10.95
12111244	3,136	104	3.32	74	30	2.36	0.96
12111363	3,648	1,020	27.96	382	753	10.47	20.64
12111367	10,325	337	3.26	259	90	2.51	0.87
12111379	11,410	2,832	24.82	2,083	1,104	18.26	9.68
12111410	6,480	135	2.08	82	53	1.27	0.82
12111423	9,877	891	9.02	684	207	6.93	2.10
12111501	32,569	3,712	11.40	2,003	1,800	6.15	5.53
12111514	12,729	2,495	19.60	2,111	666	16.58	5.23
12111624	6,761	197	2.91	139	67	2.06	0.99
12111663	5,598	1,354	24.19	233	1,153	4.16	20.60
12111703	3,577	1,572	43.95	527	1,507	14.73	42.13
12111795	9,129	1,465	16.05	1,408	201	15.42	2.20
12111866	4,627	550	11.89	360	284	7.78	6.14
12111869	1,485	55	3.70	54	1	3.64	0.07
12111910	6,221	653	10.50	486	211	7.81	3.39
12111960	5,902	1,780	30.16	705	1,121	11.95	18.99
12112152	4,062	1,289	31.73	448	1,172	11.03	28.85
12210934	11,338	2,472	21.80	1,021	1,709	9.01	15.07
12210955	4,229	1,744	41.24	142	1,668	3.36	39.44
12211266	7,552	880	11.65	313	654	4.14	8.66
12211290	11,740	592	5.04	336	361	2.86	3.07
12211353	9,337	1,218	13.04	414	1,008	4.43	10.80
12211956	2,467	349	14.15	256	101	10.38	4.09
12212098	6,278	2,812	44.79	315	2,586	5.02	41.19
12212113	4,321	434	10.04	384	72	8.89	1.67
12212204	8,321	657	7.90	406	291	4.88	3.50
12212388	6,771	810	11.96	695	128	10.26	1.89
12212716	8,013	516	6.44	303	216	3.78	2.70
12212723	7,748	747	9.64	60	717	0.77	9.25
12212808	7,011	593	8.46	422	191	6.02	2.72
12213162	13,211	1,060	8.02	674	428	5.10	3.24
12213496	14,536	4,540	31.23	2,052	3,270	14.12	22.50
12213685	2,329	1	0.04	1	0	0.04	0.00
12213754	9,463	927	9.80	79	848	0.83	8.96
12213794	7,515	501	6.67	336	228	4.47	3.03
12213826	4,518	698	15.45	356	414	7.88	9.16
12213892	7,293	375	5.14	248	133	3.40	1.82
12213965	1,646	194	11.79	60	145	3.65	8.81
12213971	10,532	2,210	20.98	1,872	457	17.77	4.34
12214172	9,006	1,178	13.08	921	336	10.23	3.73
12214281	5,457	678	12.42	373	339	6.84	6.21

Table 4

Quadrant coordinates in standardized space

loc	x_normalized	y_normalized	width_normalized	height_normalized	xmin	ymin	xmax	ymax
TL	0.0	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.0	0.5	0.5	1.0
TR	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	1.0	1.0
BL	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.5
BR	0.5	0.0	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.0	1.0	0.5

Table 5

Aggregated proportion looks for each condition in each 100 ms time bin

condition	condition1	time_bin	Fix
TCUU-ENGSP	cohort	-200	0.2615870787
TCUU-ENGSP	cohort	-100	0.2588888889
TCUU-ENGSP	cohort	0	0.2508226691
TCUU-ENGSP	cohort	100	0.2574108818
TCUU-ENGSP	cohort	200	0.2298850575
TCUU-ENGSP	cohort	300	0.2244212099

Table 6

Gorilla provided gaze coordinates

loc	x_normalized	y_normalized	width_normalized	height_normalized	xmin	ymin	xmax	ymax
BL	0.03	0.04	0.26	0.25	0.03	0.04	0.29	0.29
TL	0.02	0.74	0.26	0.25	0.02	0.74	0.28	0.99
TR	0.73	0.75	0.24	0.24	0.73	0.75	0.97	0.99
BR	0.73	0.06	0.23	0.25	0.73	0.06	0.96	0.31

Table 7*Clustermass statistics for the Spanish-Spanish condition*

cluster	cluster_mass	p.cluster_mass	bin_start	bin_end	t	sign	time_start	time_end
1.00	210.03	0.00	7.00	13.00	5.14	1	500.00	1,100.00

Table 8*Eye-tracking questionnaire items*

Question
1. Do you have a history of vision problems (e.g., corrected vision, eye disease, or drooping eyelids)?
2. Are you on any medications currently that can impair your judgement?
If yes, please list below:
4. Does your room currently have natural light?
5. Are you using the built in camera?
If no, what brand of camera are you using?
6. Please estimate how far you think you were sitting from the camera during the experiment (an arm's length from your monitor is about 20 inches (51 cm)).
7. Approximately how many times did you look at your phone during the experiment?
8. Approximately how many times did you get up during the experiment?
9. Was the environment you took the experiment in distraction free?
10. When you had to calibrate, were the instructions clear?
11. What additional information would you add to help make things easier to understand?
12. Are you wearing a mask?

Table 9*Responses to eye-tracking questions for participants who successfully calibrated vs. participants who had trouble calibrating*

Question	Response	percentage_good	percentage_bad
1. Do you have a history of vision problems (e.g., corrected vision, eye disease, or drooping eyelids)?	No	65.714	64.286
1. Do you have a history of vision problems (e.g., corrected vision, eye disease, or drooping eyelids)?	Yes	34.286	35.714
2. Are you on any medications currently that can impair your judgement?	No	100.000	98.214
2. Are you on any medications currently that can impair your judgement?	Yes	0.000	1.786
4. Does your room currently have natural light?	No	40.000	26.786
4. Does your room currently have natural light?	Yes	60.000	73.214
5. Are you using the built in camera?	No	14.286	8.929
5. Are you using the built in camera?	Yes	85.714	91.071
9. Was the environment you took the experiment in distraction free?	No	11.429	3.571
9. Was the environment you took the experiment in distraction free?	Yes	88.571	96.429