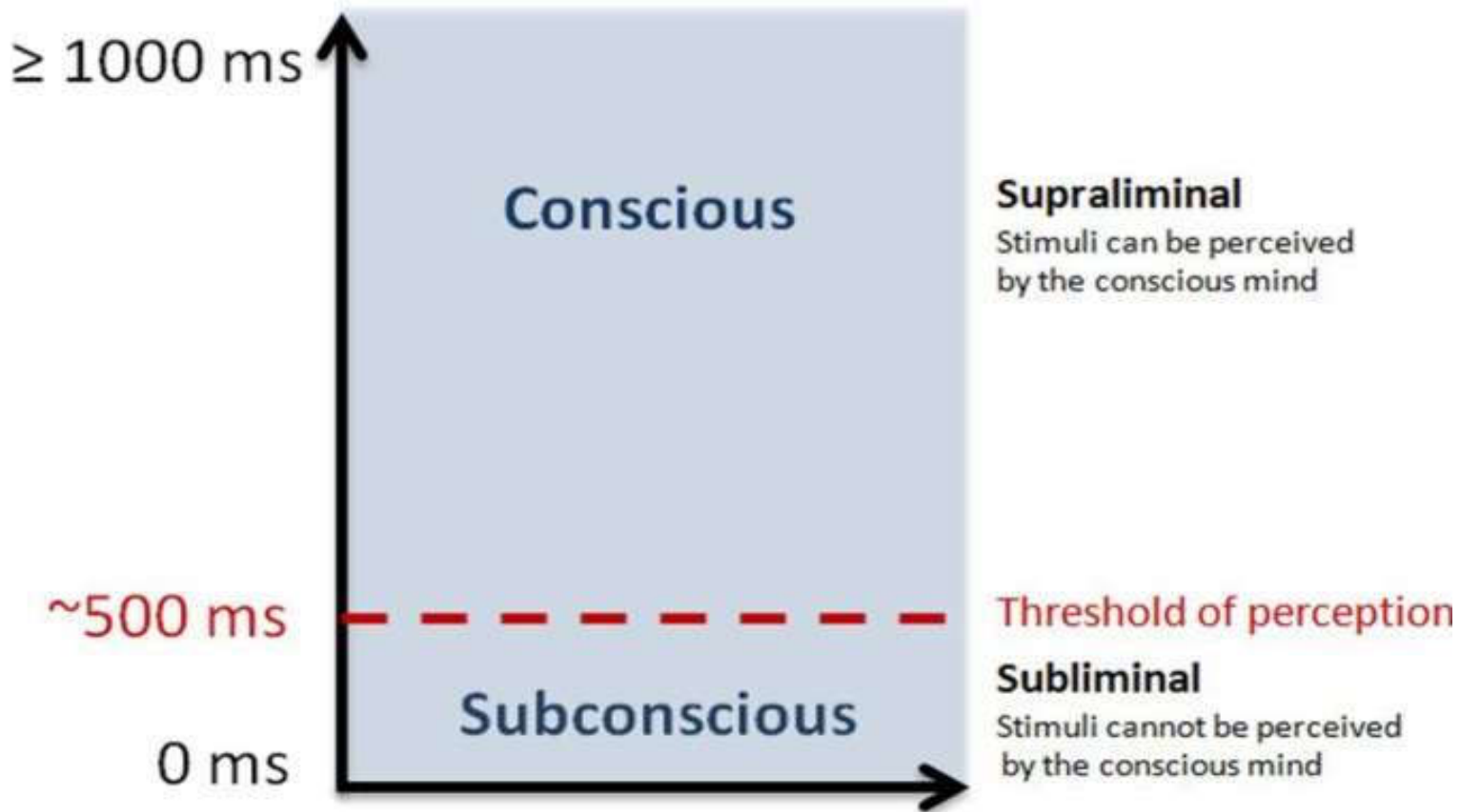


## 1. Introduction

Studies employing a masked priming paradigm have observed that stimuli could be processed on a semantic level. Semantic processing of a consciously perceived stimulus could be facilitated by the previously presented stimulus that was not consciously perceived (subliminal). This is usually measured as the reaction time employed to respond. Facilitation occurs between congruent pairs of stimuli (from the same category) and does not occur between incongruent pairs (from different categories), called congruency priming effect. Two principal factors modulate the priming effect, the semantic similarity between stimuli and the SOA. Similarity refers to the similarity in meaning or overlap of features between words. The greater the similarity, the bigger the facilitation. The SOA modulates priming effect is the interval between the onset of the first stimulus and the onset of the second stimulus of the pair (SOA: stimulus asynchrony), showing that the bigger the SOA, the lower the priming effect. Despite the fact that these two phenomena have been extensively studied, the underlying mechanisms are still unclear.

not been studied the influence of semantic strength has not been studied together with SOA duration.



## 1.1 Research Question

The goal of this study was to observe if semantic related (strongly and weakly related pairs) could modulate congruency priming. To evaluate this, both semantic relatedness (strong and weak) was manipulated in a subliminal semantic priming task.

## 2. Methods

Experimental  
Task

- RT (response time) [ms]
- Relation ['nr', 'WR', 'SR']
- Answer [0:1]
- Num.Trial [1:256]
- ID

Visibility  
survey

- Prelikert [1:7]
- ID

Objective  
visibility task

- Hit Rate [0:1]
- FA Rate [0:1]
- Dprime (Sensitivity index)
- ID

Semantic

- Similarity [1:7]
- ID

## 2.1 Experimental Task

Fixation (500 ms)



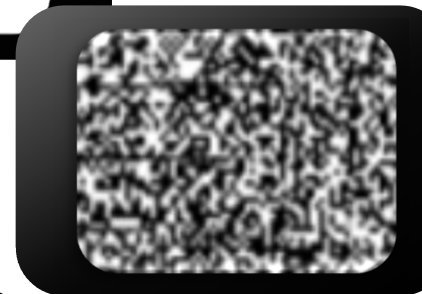
Forward Mask  
(100 ms)



**PRIME**  
(33.5 ms)




Forward Mask  
(variable)



**TRIAL**

**Prime-Target SOA (variable)**



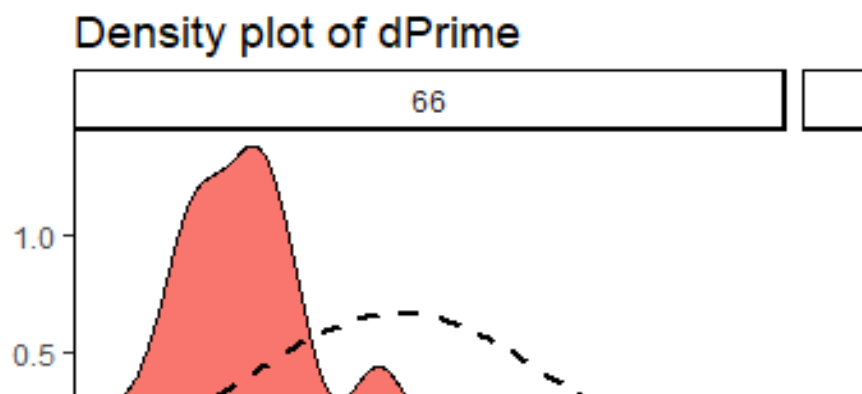
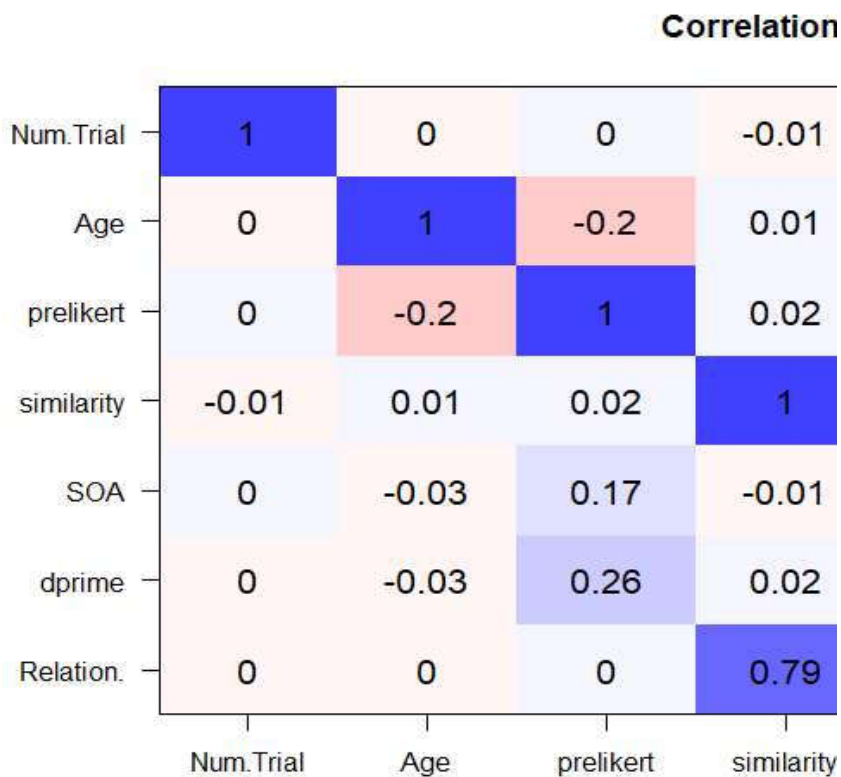
Ortells, J. J., Kiefer, M., Castillo, A., Megías, M., & Morillas, A. (2016). The semantic  
Bruno, N., Díaz Rivera, M., Embon, I., Iorio, A. (2016). Procesamiento Subliminal Se

# Importance of Semantic Similarity and

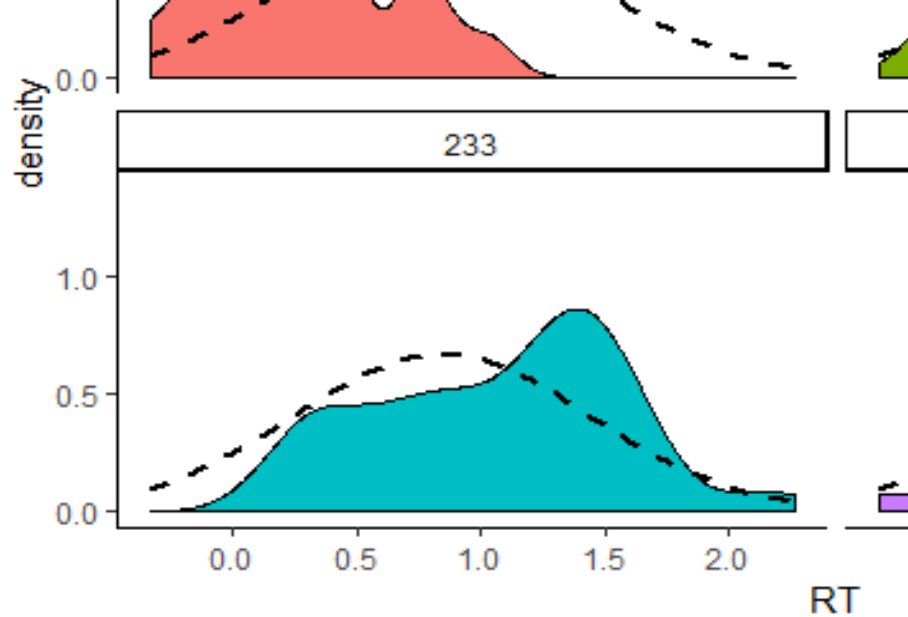
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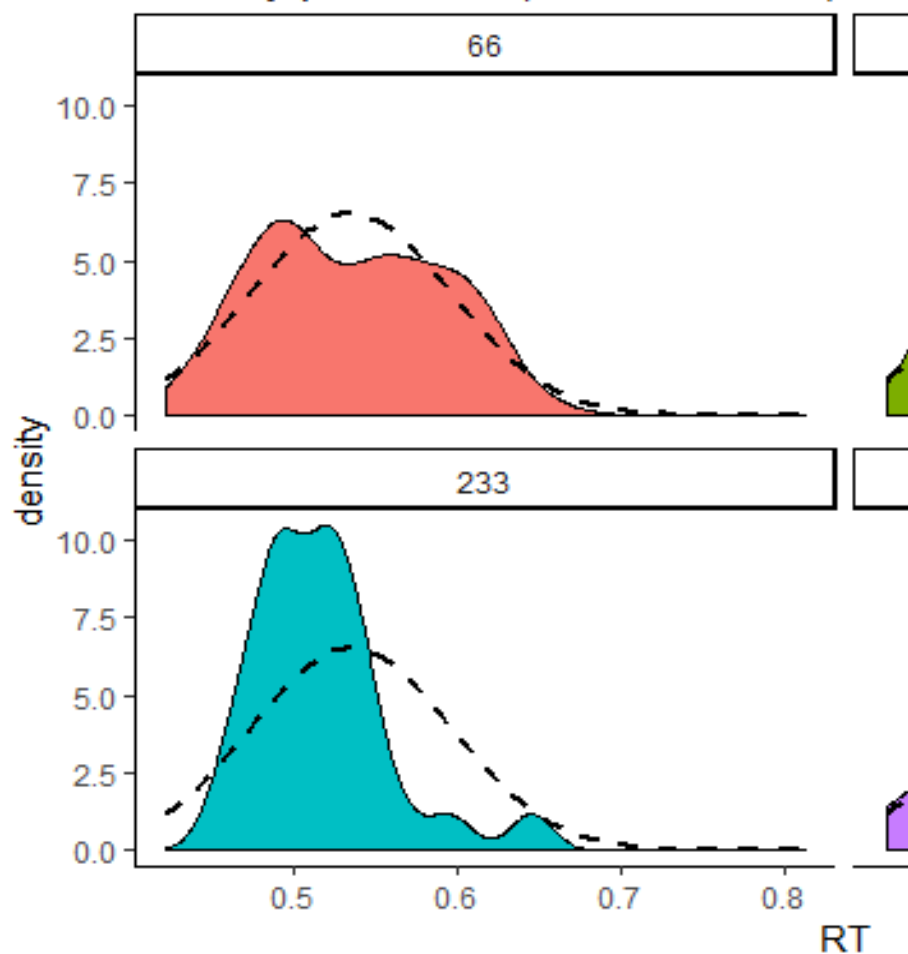
erved that subliminal categorization of a presentation of a (minimal). This facilitation is attributed to a task. When this is done in the same category) (different categories) is to modulate the subliminal SOA. Semantic features between two . Another factor that of the first stimulus stimulus onset priming effect. extensively studied, it has



not been studied



Density plot of RT (untransformed)



on

liness (strongly and  
effect duration. To  
ak) and SOA were

We performed a Kruskal Wallis t  
groups. The test did not show a  
sum test shows that there is no c  
no evidence of difference among  
We performed a One-Way ANOVA

We performed a One-way ANOVA on the RT data for the three groups. There is statistical evidence for a difference between groups,  $F(3,96)=22.29$   $p < .001$ . The biggest difference was between the two groups with the highest SOA. The RT distribution between groups was not normal, but the RT distribution was close to normal. Logarithmic and inverse normal transformations did not improve the normality of the data. The original intention of the experiment was to test a 4x3 factorial design, but the 4x3 design was not possible where:

IV between: SOA

IV within: Relation

DV: RT

We performed individual Friedman tests on the RT data for the different types of semantic relations. The results showed that the RTs were significantly faster for the different types of semantic relations.

Given the mentioned limitations, a mixed-effects model was applied. This model allowed to test the effect of the different types of semantic relations on the RT. It was not necessary to average the RTs for the different types of semantic relations. The procedure on this type of experiment is described in the next section.

<) [d']

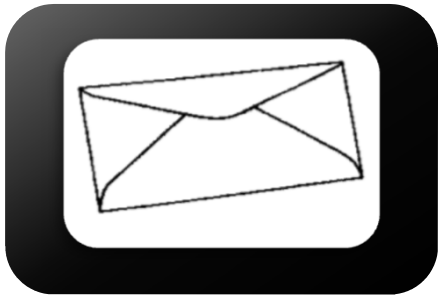


$$Y_{ij} = \alpha_j[i] + \beta_j[i]$$
$$RT \sim Relation * SOA$$

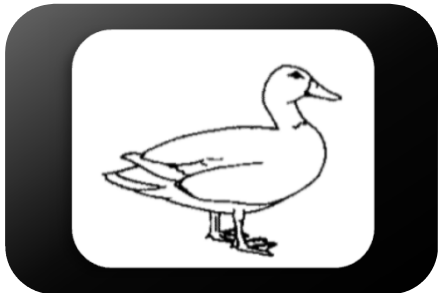


# Task

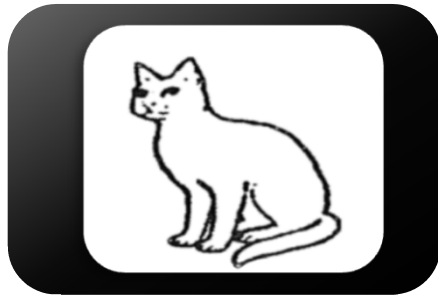
## TARGET



Unrelated



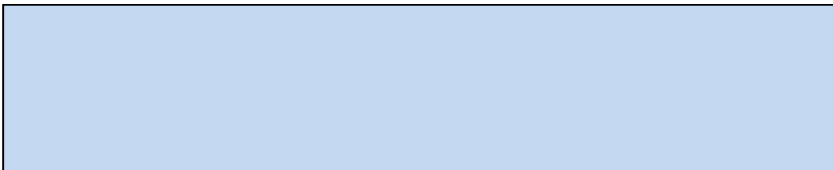
Weekly  
Related



Strongly  
Related

Groups	Rank
ID	
Residual	
Number of obs: 25073, groups: ID,	

	Estimate	Std. Error
(Intercept)	-0.6148	0.02223
RelationWR	-0.01923	0.00619
RelationSR	-0.01762	0.0062
SOA 150	0.01245	0.03144
SOA 233	-0.03833	0.03056
SOA 317	0.02276	0.03113
c.Num.Trial	7.1E-05	1.7E-05



In summary, the four experiments showed a significant reduction on the RT for every group. There was a significant Group effect. Different SOA values showed different effects. A possible limitation to generalizing the results is that the bigger the SOA, the bigger the effect. The SOA presented an influence on the RT. It has a differential effect over the RT. Given the fact that the attention

Related

on the processing of the target

origin of unconscious priming: Behavioral and event-related potential evidence during  
según El Grado De Relación Semántica. VIII Congreso Internacional de Investigación y P

# Stimulus Onset Asynchrony of Processing

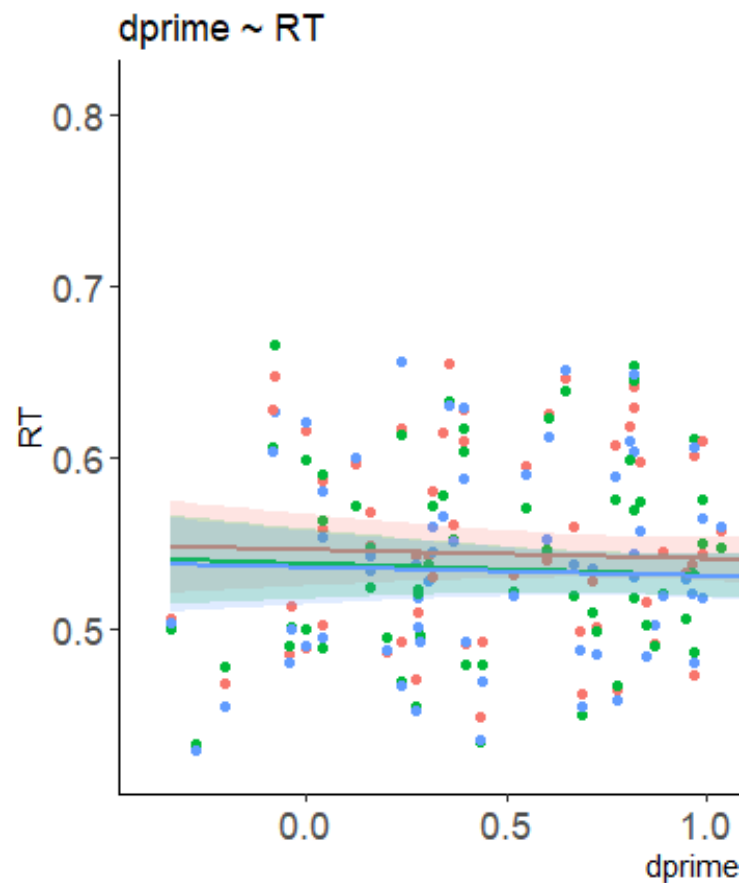
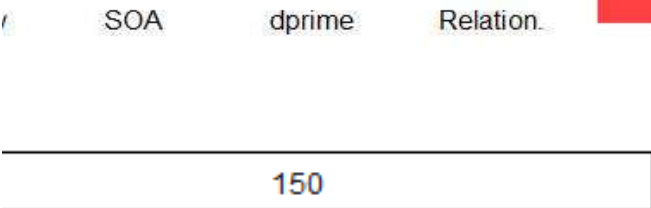
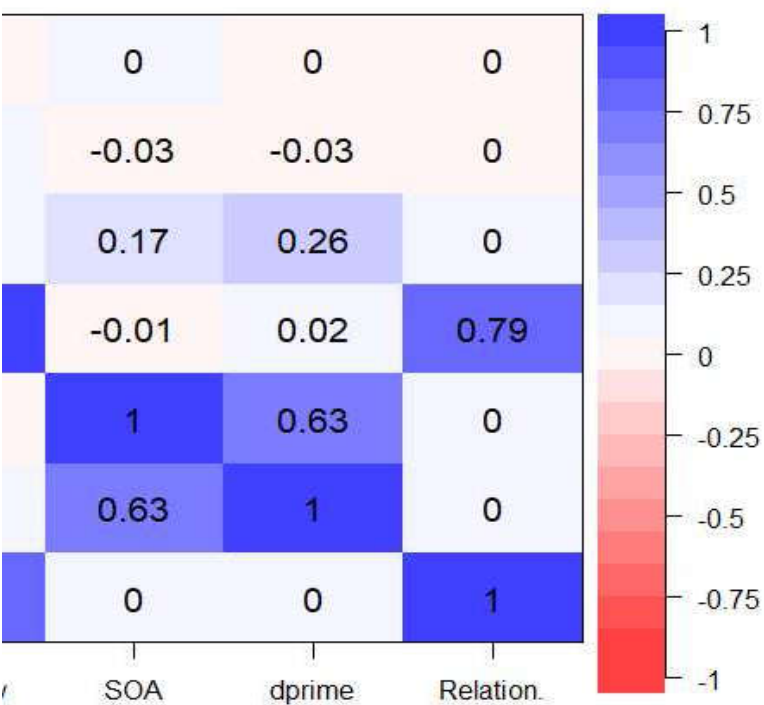
: IDS 702: Modeling and Representation of Data

Professor: Jerome Ritter

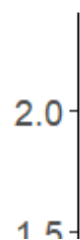
Author: Joaquin Menendez ([jm622@duke.edu](mailto:jm622@duke.edu))

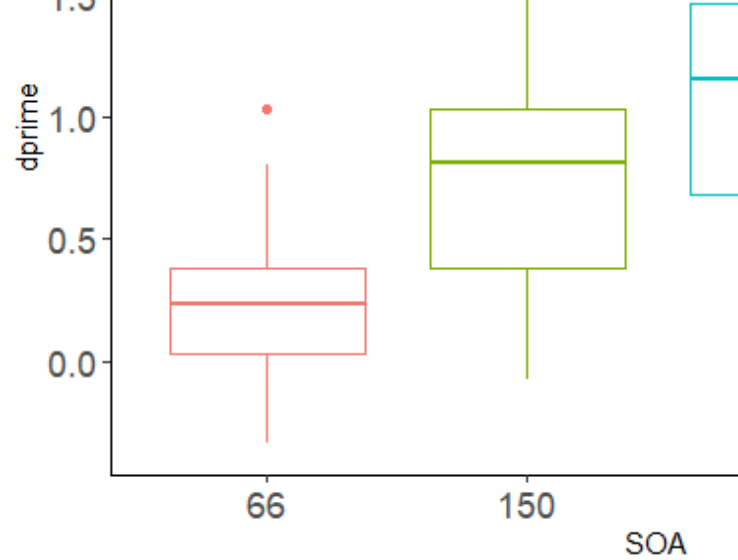
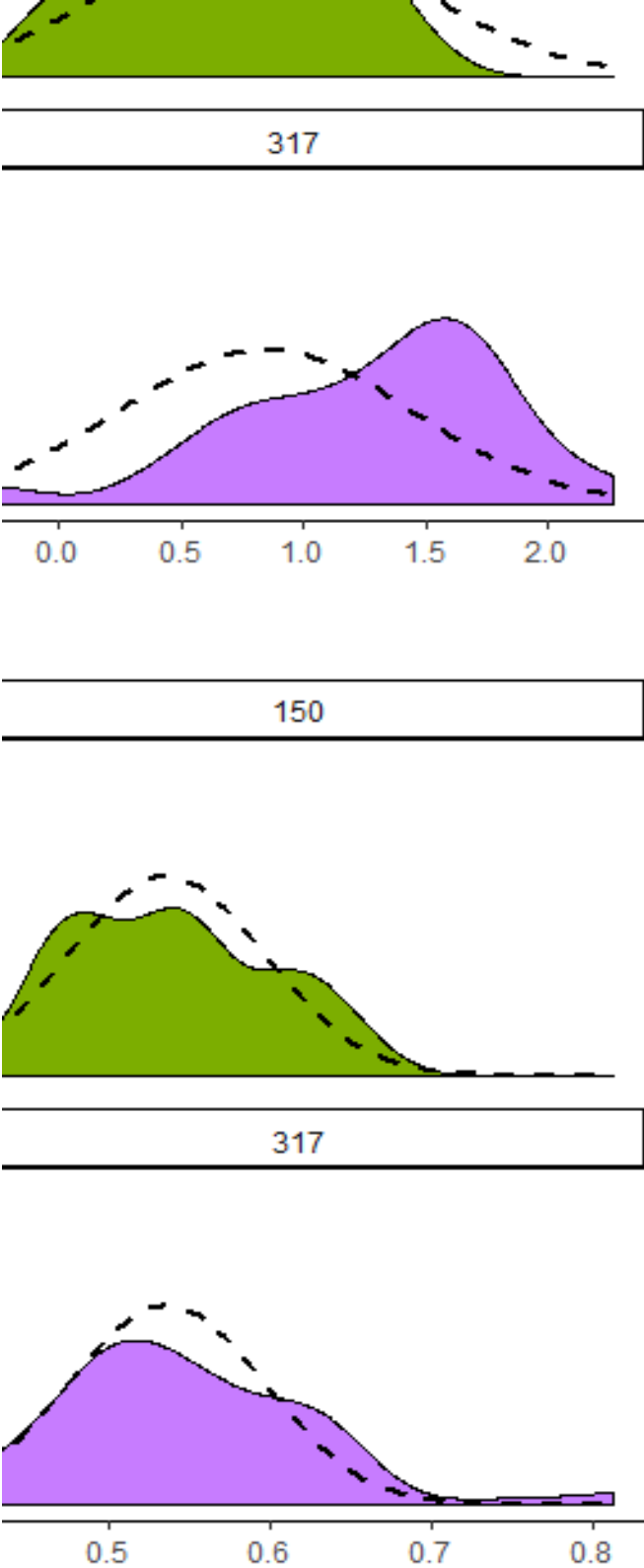
## Exploratory Analysis

Heatmap



dprime ~ SOA





dprime			
Group	n	mean	s
66	24	0.25	0.1
150	24	0.72	0.1
233	27	1.07	0.1
317	25	1.27	0.1

aov(formula = dprime ~ SOA)			
	Df	Sum Sq	Mean Sq
SOA	3	14.69	4.89
Residuals	96	21.09	0.22

test to compare the means of prelikert scores between groups. The statistical trend ( $X^2 = 6.575$ ,  $p = .079$ ). The Wilcoxon rank sum test indicates a significant difference between groups. We could claim that there is a significant difference between groups for prelikert values.

test to compare the mean of dprime scores between groups.

ANOVA to compare the mean of dprime scores between  
 presence of a difference between dprime per group  
 over the SOA, the bigger the dprime.  
 groups was not homogeneous and did not present a normal  
 inverse transformation were not able to homogenize the  
 the experimental design was to realize a Mixed ANOVA

an Test for each group in order to compare the RT over  
 relatedness (Relation).

a multilevel model using ID as a grouping factor was  
 work with normally distributed data given the fact that it  
 the RT of each subject per condition (the standard  
 elements) allowing to work with all the trials of each subject.

## 4. Results

$$\beta_1 i * \beta_2 j[i] + \beta_3 i + \epsilon_i$$

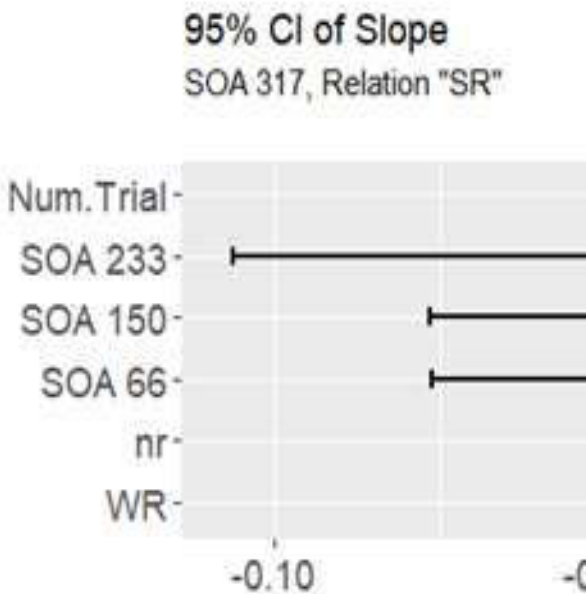
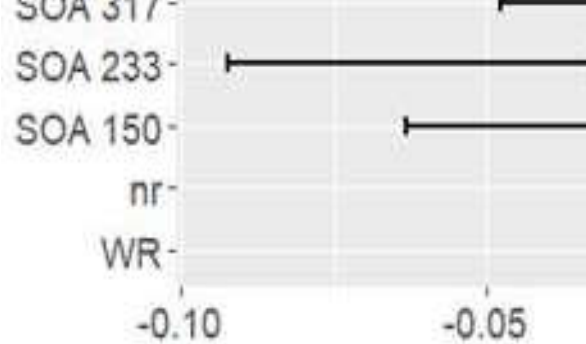
$$+ c. Num. Trail + (1|ID)$$

95% CI of Slope  
 SOA 66, Relation "SR"

Num. Trial -			
SOA 66			

Random effects			
	Name	Variance	Std.Dev.
	(Intercept)	0.01155	0.1075
		0.03878	0.1969
, 100			

Fixed effects			
df	t value	Pr(> t )	
98.54	-27.654	< 2e-16	***
24960	-3.107	0.00189	**
24960	-2.844	0.00446	**
98.58	0.396	0.69306	
98.56	-1.254	0.21273	
98.53	0.731	0.4664	
24960	4.225	2.39E-05	***



## 5. Conclusion and

tial groups shown statistical differences depending on the sem  
 group when the pair of stimuli were Weak or Strong related in c  
 es did not reduce nor increase RT for any Relation level.  
 ize these results is the fact that subject performed above-chanc  
 the dprime score. Nevertheless, Ortells et. al (2016) also report  
 the RT, and If we take in count the lack of difference on the su  
 conscious processing of the prime stimuli only during the obje  
 n has a crucial role on conscious processing, it could be that the

stimuli would be interfering on the processing of the prime stimuli.

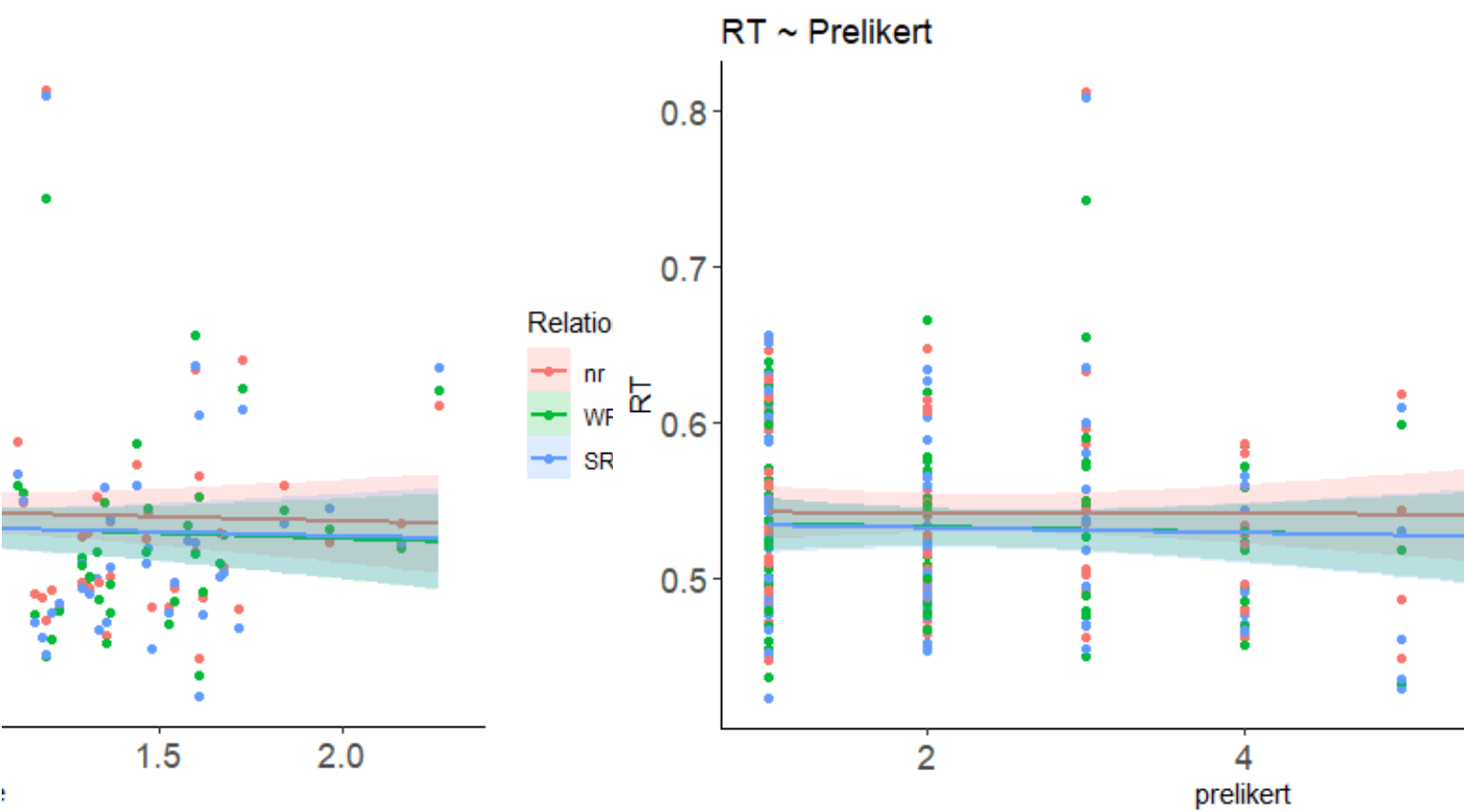
## References

g category congruency priming from strongly and weakly related masked words. *Cognitive Psychology*, 51, 1-24.

Práctica Profesional en Psicología. Facultad de Psicología - Universidad de Buenos Aires

# on Semantic Subliminal

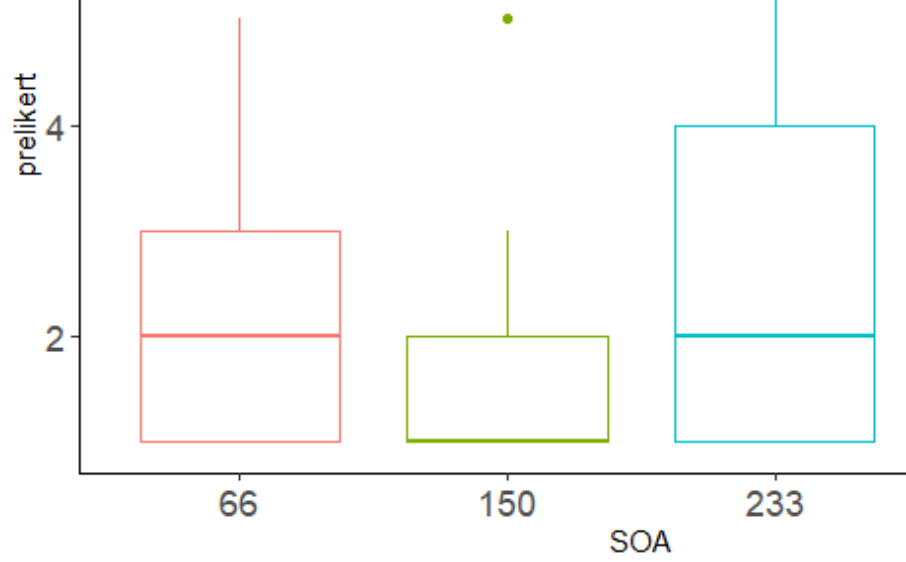
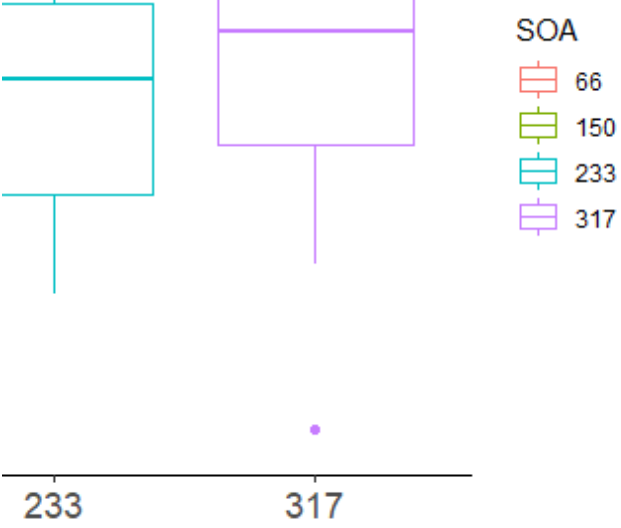
## analysis



Prelikert ~ SOA

6





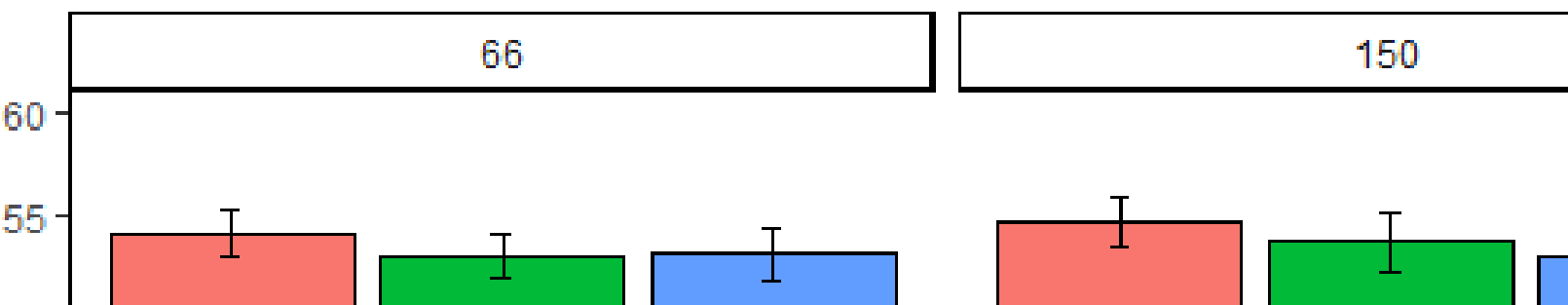
me			
sd	media	trimme	max
	n	d	
.33	0.24	0.24	1.03
.45	0.82	0.73	1.48
.5	1.16	1.07	2.16
.56	1.35	1.31	2.26

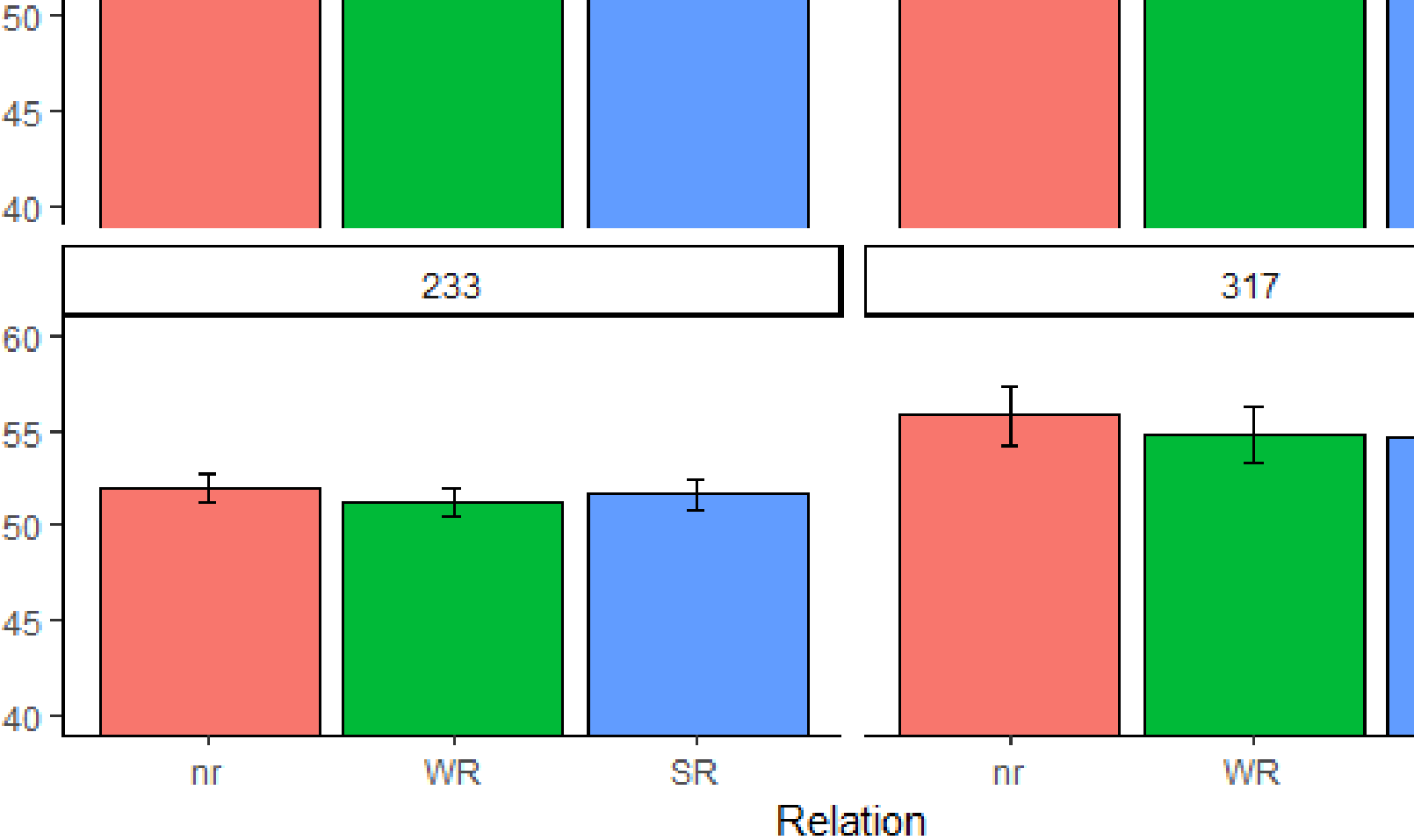
prelikert				
group	n	mean	sd	median
66	24	2.21	1.22	2
150	24	1.96	1.46	1
233	27	2.52	1.45	2
317	25	2.72	1.43	2

ANOVA, data = multiple_data)		
Sum Sq	F	Pr(>F)
398	22.29	4.88e-11 ***
22		

Kruskal-Wallis rank sum test		
X2	df	p-value
6.759	3	0.0799

## RT by group



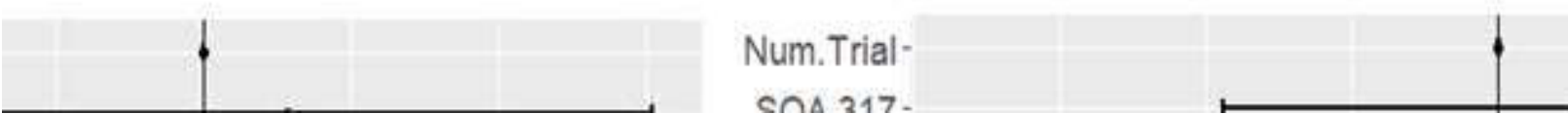


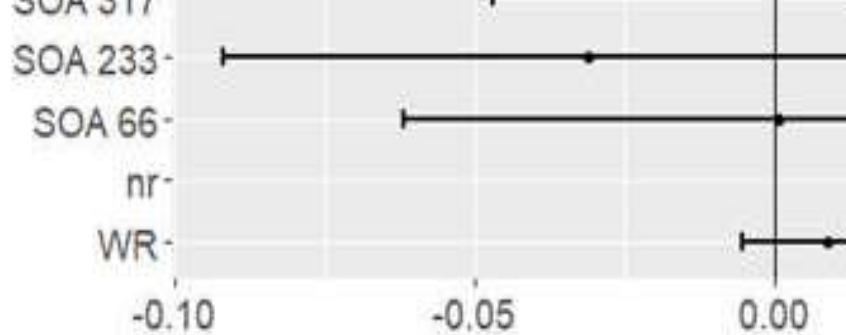
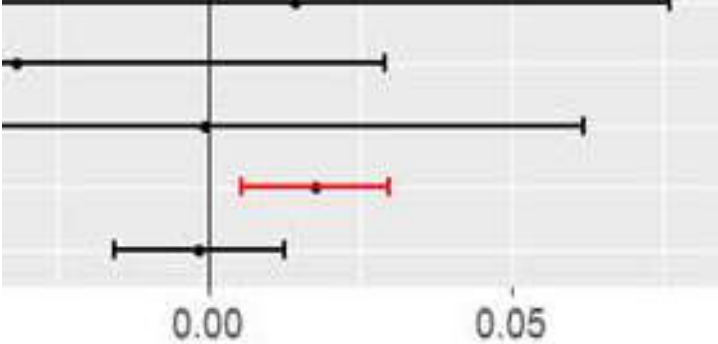
Friedman rank sum test

Groups	Stats
SOA 66	Friedman chi-squared = 12.333, df = 2, p-value = 0.002098
SOA 150	Friedman chi-squared = 7, df = 2, p-value = 0.0302
SOA 233	Friedman chi-squared = 2.7407, df = 2, p-value = 0.254
SOA 317	Friedman chi-squared = 6.72, df = 2, p-value = 0.03474

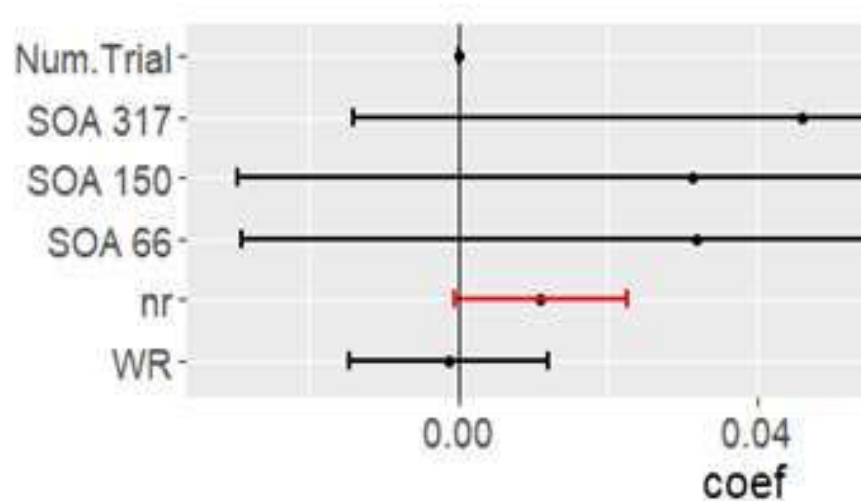
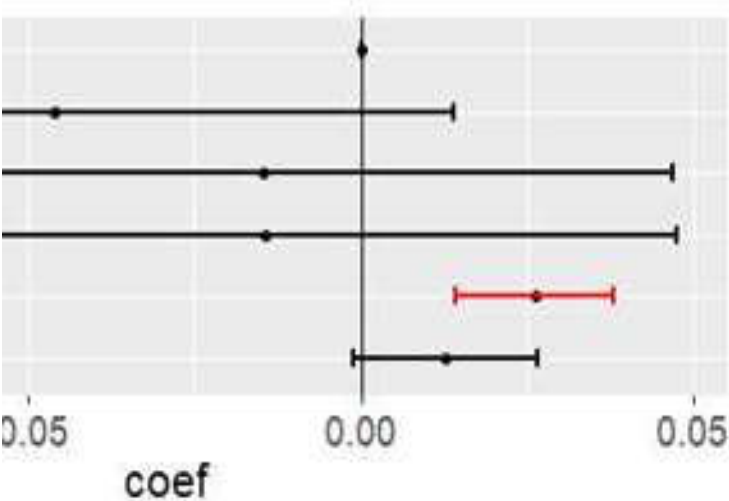
ts

95% CI of Slope  
SOA 150, Relation "SR"





95% CI of Slope  
SOA 233, Relation "SR"



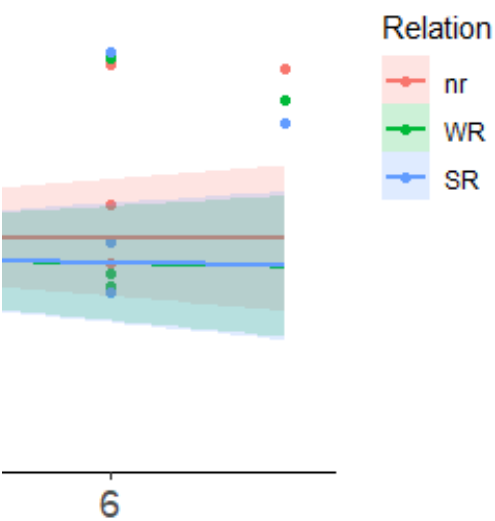
## Limitations

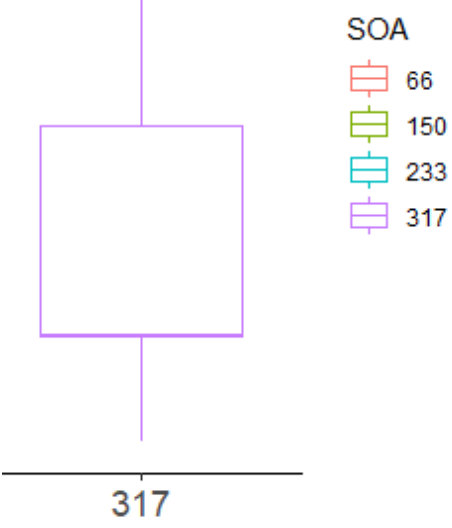
semantic relatedness between the prime and the target stimulus. Comparison to not being related. However, we did not find evidence

on the visibility test. Also, we found a group effect on the d' test. We found differences among groups on the dprime. Given the fact that we had a subjective report (Prelikert), we could suggest that the different groups had a subjective visibility test but no effect during the experimental task. The short period of time between stimulus combined with an attention

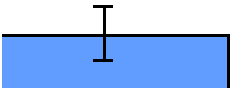
multi.

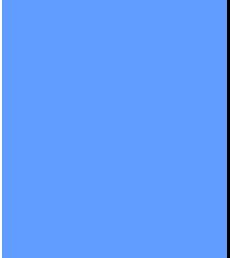
ognition, 146, 143–157. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cognition.2015.09.012>  
s, Buenos Aires.





min	max
1	5
1	6
1	6
1	7





Relation



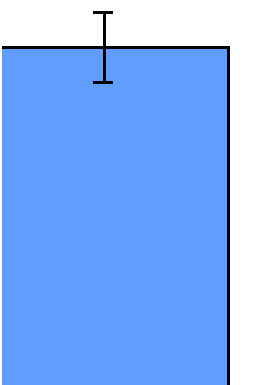
nr



WR

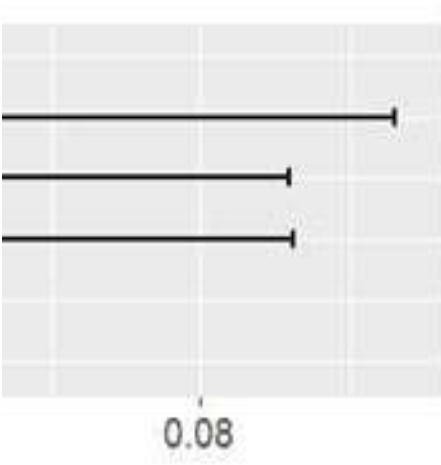
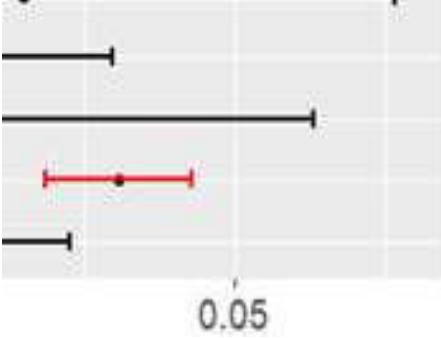


SR



SR





There was a  
 dence of a  
  
 prime score,  
 that dprime nor  
 SOA interval  
 (priming task).  
 entional focus



