

README

Wagers, Lau, & Phillips (2009) Public Data

This archive contains reading-time data from the six experiments reported in

Wagers, M., Lau, E., Phillips, C. (2009). Agreement attraction in comprehension: representations and processes. *Journal of Memory and Language*, 61, 206-237. DOI:10.1016/j.jml.2009.04.002.

The data are stored in six CSV files, one each for the correspondingly-numbered experiment in the paper. There is also an Rdata file which can be opened directly in the R Environment: it contains six dataframes, named Experiment{1-6}.

The column names are exactly the variables defined by the [Linger](#) platform (Version 2.94; Rohde, 2003). Each row corresponds to the reading time for a single region, which in these experiments always corresponded to a word (or a singly-regioned noun-noun compound like `factory_worker`). The reading-time and question-answering data have not been separately collated. If you wish to analyze question-answering accuracy, extract only the trials for Region 1 and compute over the QPCT column.

Experiment 1: S-V agreement with no distractors

The design is GRAMMATICALITY \times SUBJECTNUMBER.

- Critical regions:
 - 3: subject head
 - 4: spill-over adverb
 - 5: number-marked auxiliary
 - 6: predicate

Example Item Set

- Condition a :: Grammatical :: Singular subject head
 - The old key unsurprisingly was rusty from many years of disuse ...
- Condition b :: Ungrammatical :: Singular subject head
 - The old key unsurprisingly were rusty from many years of disuse ...
- Condition c :: Ungrammatical :: Plural subject head
 - The old keys unsurprisingly was rusty from many years of disuse ...
- Condition d :: Grammatical :: Plural subject head
 - The old keys unsurprisingly were rusty from many years of disuse ...

Experiment 2: Agreement in relative clauses with RC Head Distractor

The design is $\text{GRAMMATICALITY} \times \text{DISTRACTORNUMBER}$. The RC-internal subject is always singular (and thus the grammatical verb is always marked for singular).

- Critical regions:
 - 2: RC head
 - 5: Singular RC-internal subject head
 - 6: Number-marked RC-internal lexical verb
 - 7-9: Spill-over (various)

Example Item Set

- Condition c :: Grammatical :: Singular distractor
 - The publicist who the politician uses during a crisis ...
- Condition d :: Ungrammatical :: Singular distractor
 - The publicist who the politician use during a crisis ...
- Condition g :: Grammatical :: Plural distractor
 - The publicists who the politician use during a crisis ...
- Condition h :: Ungrammatical :: Plural distractor
 - The publicists who the politician use during a crisis ...

Experiment 3: Agreement in relative clauses with RC Head Distractor

The design is $\text{GRAMMATICALITY} \times \text{DISTRACTORNUMBER} \times \text{SUBJECTNUMBER}$. Conditions {c, d, g, h} from Experiment 2 become Conditions {a, b, e, f} in Experiment 3. Conditions {c, d, g, h} below represent the Plural level of SUBJECTNUMBER.

- Critical regions:
 - 2: RC head
 - 5: Singular RC-internal subject head
 - 6: Number-marked RC-internal lexical verb
 - 7-8: Spill-over (various)

Example Item Set

- Condition c :: Grammatical :: Singular distractor
 - The publicist who the politicians use during a crisis ...
- Condition d :: Ungrammatical :: Singular distractor
 - The publicist who the politicians uses during a crisis ...
- Condition g :: Grammatical :: Plural distractor
 - The publicists who the politicians use during a crisis ...
- Condition h :: Ungrammatical :: Plural distractor
 - The publicists who the politicians uses during a crisis ...

Experiment 4: Agreement in matrix clauses with In-PP-Modifier Distractor

The design is GRAMMATICALITY \times DISTRACTORNUMBER.

- Critical regions:
 - 2: subject head
 - 5: distractor noun
 - 6: spill-over adjective
 - 7: number-marked auxiliary
 - 8: predicate

Example Item Set

- Condition a :: Grammatical :: Singular distractor
 - The key to the cell unsurprisingly was rusty ...
- Condition b :: Grammatical :: Plural distractor
 - The key to the cells unsurprisingly was rusty ...
- Condition c :: Ungrammatical :: Singular distractor
 - The key to the cell unsurprisingly were rusty ...
- Condition d :: Ungrammatical :: Plural distractor
 - The key to the cells unsurprisingly were rusty ...

Experiment 5: Agreement in matrix clauses with In-PP-Modifier Distractor

The design is $\text{GRAMMATICALITY} \times \text{DISTRACTORNUMBER}$. Experiment 5 differs from Experiment 4 only in that the post-subject adverb was removed.

- Critical regions:
 - 2: subject head
 - 5: distractor noun
 - 6: number-marked auxiliary
 - 7: predicate

Experiment 6: Agreement in matrix clauses with In-PP-Modifier Distractor

The design is DISTRACTORNUMBER : all sentences are grammatical and all that varies is whether the Within-PP modifier is singular or plural. The items (and critical regions) are identical to Experiment 4 Conditions A and B.