## Editorial Request Table – Acceptance in Principle

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| Each Figure must be provided as a separate file regardless of whether the manuscript is submitted as a LaTeX or word document and must be supplied whole, with all panels included in a single document. Figures should be provided at a minimum resolution of 300 dpi at final size.  Figure files must only contain images (no captions, and please also leave out labels such as “Figure 1” etc).  Figure captions must instead be included within the main manuscript file, grouped together at the end of the document. |  | Figures have been removed from main manuscript and supplied as image files at 300 dpi.  Figure captions have been grouped at the end of the manuscript. |
| All figures and tables must be cited in the manuscript and numbered in the order in which they appear.  Please limit the overall number of display items (figures or tables) to 10; any additional material can be presented as Supplementary Information. |  | Figures and tables are numbered in the order in which they appear in the manuscript.  There are nine display items: seven figures and two tables. |
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| A final version of our reporting summary must be uploaded with your manuscript. If you require a new Reporting Summary form, please download it here: https://www.nature.com/documents/nr-reporting-summary.zip  The reporting summary will be published alongside your manuscript therefore it needs to accurately represent your work. If an item does not apply, for example Eukaryotic cell lines, please check the NA box next to that item. No section should be left blank.  Also, please make sure to include your name and date at the top of the document. | The reporting summary should include information on whether you obtained data for sex and/or gender and how (e.g. self report). It should list sample characteristics, e.g. in the case of gender: x women, y men, z non-binary or in the case of sex: x female participants, y male participants, z undisclosed (labels as per the wording in the collected data). | We do not have sex or gender information available for our participant samples and we did not ask for self-reports of sex or gender.  We have elaborated this fact on the report summary and inserted a statement to this effect into the General Methods section of the manuscript. |
| Editor’s Summary for our homepage:  We publish a brief summary of your study on our webpage. The limit for this summary is about 250 characters (including spaces). If you wish, you can suggest an Editorial Summary. |  | We suggest (248 characters): “Real world decisions from shopping to dating are based on sequential searches through options. When is best to stop searching? Our computational models show participants’ searches are suboptimal because of misguided expectations of future options.” |
| We regularly highlight papers published in Communications Psychology on the journal’s Twitter account (@CommsPsychol). If you would like us to mention authors, institutions, or lab groups in these tweets, please provide the relevant twitter handles in the right-hand column. |  | @furllab  @RHULPsychology |
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| Manuscript title  Please ensure the title clearly describes the central finding of the paper (not solely the topic of the research). Please avoid punctuation (such as question marks or colons).  We recommend writing the title as a declarative statement of approximately 15 words or fewer.  Please avoid abbreviations and acronyms. | The title is fine | Fine |
| Abstract  The abstract advertises your paper and ideally appeals to a broad audience. Please make it as attractive and accessible as possible, and avoid or explain specialist terms. We recommend the following:  The abstract should be accessible to non-specialists and up to 250 words long. No subheadings are used. It should cover the background, methods, results, and conclusions of the study. The ‘Background’ should provide the context and rationale for the study. The ‘Methods’ should briefly describe how the study was performed including statistics. The ‘Results’ should briefly describe the main findings. The ‘Conclusions’ should provide a brief summary of the study and discuss potential implications and limitations. No policy recommendations may be included unless these were directly tested in the study. No references are included, and acronyms should be avoided.  For clinical trials, the structured Abstract should follow the relevant CONSORT guidelines. Please see the CONSORT for Abstracts checklist: https://www.consort-statement.org/extensions?ContentWidgetId=562 | The Abstract is fine | Fine |
| If you wish to supply a graphical abstract, please ensure it is titled ‘Graphical Abstract’ on our manuscript tracking system, and submitted under the ‘Graphical Abstract’ file type. To avoid typesetting errors, it should not be present in the main manuscript file. |  | N/A |
| **Main Text** | **Feedback/Tips** | **Author Reply** |
| Format of the main text  Please ensure your manuscript includes the following sections, presented in this order and with the following headings:  “Introduction”: The background and rationale for the work. The final paragraph should be a brief summary of the hypotheses. Do not discuss results. Do not include subheadings.  “Methods”, which should be split into subheaded sections. Do not use more than 2 layers of subheadings.  “Results”. This should be split into subheaded sections. Do not use more than 2 layers of subheadings.  “Discussion”, with subheadings, mandatory subheading: “Limitations”.  “Conclusions” (optional), without subheadings.  Place Data Availability Statement and Code Availability Statement before the references.  References (see below).  References are followed by the “End Matter” see details below; do not use “End Matter” as a subheading.  To improve readability, we recommend that the main text (Introduction, Results and Discussion) be limited to approximately 5000 words or fewer. | Please reorder the main text. Each section may appear only once, i.e. there cannot be multiple Methods sections or multiple Results sections.  The pilot studies should be moved to the SI entirely, or entirely appear in the main manuscript, in which case pilot methods must be in the single Methods section while pilot results appear in the single Results section. | We have condensed all studies in one Methods and one Results section.  We have elected to keep the Pilot studies in the main text instead of the SI.  We have rephrased the final paragraph of the Introduction to remove discussion of the results. |
| **Introduction & Discussion** | **Feedback/Tips** | **Author Reply** |
| The discussion may start with a high-level summary of the Results. The discussion should avoid speculation or claims not substantiated by the data. Please include a Limitations section in the Discussion (under the sub-heading “Limitations”) and if appropriate, include a Conclusion heading. | All results that are mentioned in the Discussion should to appear in the Results section, reported in full (see below). Please do not discuss at length previously unmentioned Results, including from the SI. | We have either deleted from the Discussion mentions that refer to supplementary results or transferred longer passages to a Supplementary Discussion in the SI. |
| Language such as “new”, “novel”, “for the first time”, “unprecedented”, etc, should be avoided, because it often leads to unproductive controversy. Don't state that research doesn't exist, or doesn't exist to the best of your knowledge. |  | We have removed any reference like this we could find. |
| Our style does not allow for the use of bold or italics to convey emphasis. These will be taken out |  | N/A |
| **Methods** | **Tips/Feedback** | **Author Reply** |
| We allow unlimited space for Methods. The Methods must contain sufficient detail such that the work could be repeated by an independent researcher.  It is preferable that all key methods be included in the Methods section in the main manuscript, rather than in the Supplementary Information. |  | All key methods are included in the main text. |
| Please ensure that all information present in the Reporting Summary is also in the manuscript. |  | We have double checked. |
| If there was no preregistration of any study, this must be declared in the Methods section for transparency. Conversely, if any of the reported studies were preregistered, authors must provide an active link to the preregistration in the Methods section and state the date of preregistration. Authors must disclose all deviations from the preregistered protocol and explain the rationale for deviation (e.g., flaw, feasibility, suboptimality). In cases of deviation from the preregistered analysis plan for reasons other than fundamental flaw or feasibility, the originally planned analyses must also be reported. | Please note whether there were any deviations. | We have made the Results section Study 3 subsection more explicit that the basic comparison of participant sampling rates in the two sequence length conditions was the pre-registered analysis and that model comparisons are in addition to the pre-registration. |
| If any participants or data points were excluded from the analyses for any reason this is noted with a rationale for the exclusions. |  | N/A |
| Confirmation that all relevant ethical regulations were followed is needed, and that informed consent was obtained. This must be stated in the Methods section, including the name of the board and institution that approved the study protocol.  If Ethical approval and/or informed consent was waived please explain the reason citing the board and institution to grant this exemption. Editors might ask you to provide additional supporting documentation. |  | This information is included. |
| For human studies, indicate the sex/gender, number, and age of participants in every experiment in the Reporting Summary and the Methods (or Results). Provide a statement on whether informed consent was obtained by participants in the Reporting Summary and in the Methods section in the main manuscript.  Mention how sex/gender were determined (e.g., information provided by participants).  Please report whether data on race / ethnicity was collected. If it was, please include the information in the Reporting Summary and in the Methods section.  Please also provide information on participant compensation.  Relevant policy: https://www.nature.com/nature-portfolio/editorial-policies/ethics-and-biosecurity#Research-with-human-participants-their-data-or-biological-material |  | We do not have sex or gender or age information available for our participant samples and we did not ask for self-reports of sex or gender.  We have elaborated this fact on the report summary and inserted a statement to this effect into the General Methods section of the manuscript.  Informed consent information is included in the Methods. |
| With regard to reporting on sex/gender: if your study reports gender, we recommend using the terms “men”; “women”; “non-binary participants/respondents”, “participants/respondents with undisclosed gender”, etc. to refer to participants (e.g. in experimental designs) or respondents (e.g. in survey studies).  If your study reports on sex, we recommend using the terms “male participants/respondents”, “female participants/respondents”.  Do not use the terms “male” and “female” as nouns when referring to humans.  Relevant guidelines for working definitions: https://www.nature.com/nature-portfolio/editorial-policies/ethics-and-biosecurity#Research-with-human-participants-their-data-or-biological-material |  | N/A |
| Please ensure that the Methods section includes a statement indicating whether the data met the assumptions of the statistical tests used, including whether normality and equal variances were formally tested.  For tests that assume a normal distribution but wasn’t formally established, include the following statement: "Data distribution was assumed to be normal but this was not formally tested.”. |  | We have added the results of Lilliefors tests for normality and Brown-Forsythe tests for heterogeneity of variance to Supplementary Tables 1, 5 and 8 to support all frequentist tests in the Results section that depend on these assumptions, and we refer to these Tables in the Methods section. |
| **Results** | **Feedback/Tips** | **Author Reply** |
| All statements or interpretations of your results must be supported by appropriate, fully reported statistics. Please refer to our specific guidance below. | The exact BF for each comparison needs to be reported, either in the main text, in Tables, or in the Figure legends. | There are numerous such Bayesian tests in our submission, too many to include in figures or tables within the ten display item limit. Therefore we have incorporated the exact BFs (as well as analyses of BF sensitivity to priors, as requested) in Supplementary Tables 1-5, 7 and 8. |
| Statistics must be reported in full wherever they appear. All references to frequentist inferential statistics must be reported as statistic(degrees of freedom) = value, p = value, effect size statistic = value, % Confidence Intervals = values.  p-values must be reported exact, unless p<0.001.  Don’t summarize statistical tests (e.g., all ps<0.0001). List tests separately. | Where you do report statistics, be it NHST or Bayesian statistics, all relevant markers need to be reported (e.g. it’s not sufficient to just report a d-value or a BF threshold) | Please see preceding comment and Supplementary Tables 1-5, 7 and 8. |
| Please remove any interpretation of null effects obtained through null hypothesis significance testing unless appropriate additional statistical tests have been employed that allow for meaningful interpretation of the null results. |  | Bayes factors included. |
| For manuscripts that interpret null results, we require Bayes Factors or equivalence tests to interpret the null results |  | Bayes factors included. |
| When reporting the results of Bayesian analyses, please: a) list specified priors and how they were selected; b) described the statistical model and the techniques used in the analyses; c) summarize the posterior distribution with a measure of central tendency and a credibility interval; d) assess the sensitivity of the analyses to different priors. | Please apply | We have described the Cauchy prior on effect size in the Methods and each of our (many) Bayesian t-tests now reports an analysis of the sensitivity of the Bayes Factor to variation of this prior in Supplementary Tables 1-5, 7 and 8. |
| **Data & Code Sharing** | Tips/Requests | Author Reply |
| All articles in Communications Psychology must contain a Data Availability statement.  At the time of publication, the numerical data underlying plots or charts in the manuscript must be available in a publically accessible repository.  The data availability statement must link to this deposition. Making data available solely within the paper or Supplementary Information is not acceptable, data should be placed in a publicly accessible repository. | Fine | Fine. |
| Further, at the time of publication, the minimal dataset necessary to interpret, replicate and build upon the methods or findings reported in the article should also be available in a publically accessible repository. If this is not possible, for example, for legal or ethical concerns, this must be clearly stated in the Data Availability statement.  The statement ‘data are available upon request’ in itself is not acceptable. |  | <https://github.com/nicholasfurl/Model_fitting_hybrid_study> |
| Code availability  Separate from the Data Availability statement, please include a Code Availability statement, indicating how any custom code for this paper can be accessed before the References section; any restrictions to access must be discussed with the editor first and may only subsequently be included in the statement. This pertains to analysis code, simulations, and also to the code used to run the experiment, where applicable.  In addition to making the custom code available, we recommend that the version of the code/software described in the paper is deposited in a DOI-minting repository (eg, Zenodo) and that this DOI is also cited in the main Reference list.  This section should also include information on the versions of any software used, if relevant, and any specific variables or parameters used to generate, test, or process the current dataset.  Please see our policy on code availability for more information. https://www.nature.com/commspsychol/submit/submission-guidelines#code-availability | Fine | Fine |
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| Please check that your 'Author Contributions' section individually lists the specific contribution of each author to the work.  To ensure the list is complete, we recommend that you list authors in the order of appearance on the author list, with a sentence for each author that details their contributions.  Ideally, each author should be referred to by name. Initials are acceptable, but where multiple authors have identical initials, they must be clearly disambiguated from one another.  We will not be able to process a manuscript if not all authors are listed individually in the Author Contributions statement, or where there are ambiguities.  See our author contributions policy for further information: https://www.nature.com/nature-research/editorial-policies/authorship#author-contribution-statements |  | Completed |
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| Figure captions/legends  Please group figure captions together at the end of the manuscript file.  Figures/Schemes should have both a brief title that will eventually appear above the Figure/Scheme in the published version, and a legend that will eventually appear below the Figure/Scheme.  The title should describe the Figure/Scheme as a whole and must not contain reference to specific panels.  Please check that all Figures and Schemes are cited, in numerical order, in the text. [Figures and Schemes should each be numbered from 1 (e.g. Figure 1, Figure 2, Scheme 1, Scheme 2, Figure 3.]  Etc.  The Figure legend must refer to and describe all panels. Abbreviations, symbols, colors, and shading present in the Figure must be defined. Please write out the symbols/colors in words (blue circles, red dashed line, etc.) within these definitions.  We will not be able to process manuscripts where Figure captions do not comply with these requirements. | A few Figures need to be replotted; the individual datapoints should be more clearly visible without the BFs/BIC scores superimposed. | We superimposed these numbers in response to a reviewer request to do so but have removed them and restored the visibility of the points, due to editorial preference. |
| Graph axes must originate at 0, cut through 0, or in exceptional cases, include a discontinuity marker. |  | Fine |
| All Figure panels that plot the same measure should be plotted to the same scale unless this obfuscates the data(identical y-axes). |  | Fine |
| Axis and panel labels will be published as received. We recommend using a sans-serif font such as Arial or Helvetica. |  | We use Arial |
| When choosing a colour scheme please consider how it will display to users with colour blindness. Please consider distinguishing data series using line patterns rather than colours, or using optimised colour palettes such as those found at <https://doi.org/10.1038/nmeth.1618> | The use of colour coding to signify different significance levels is discouraged. | Technically speaking, we never use colour coding to indicate significance levels in the figures.  The coloured significance lines in the middle panels of Figures 3 – 7 refer to the direction of the significant effect, with the color of the lines matching the colour of the model with the better fit, with colour codes for different models specified in the legend. The significance level for all lines is always at least moderate evidence in favour of winning model.  The use of colour is so the reader can easily match the winning model encoded by the line with the bar colour of the appropriate model. This helps a reader grasp at a glance which models (colours) most often perform better.  The colour of the magenta and green lines in Figure 2 indicate either Bayesian tests for the null model or a frequentist test for a mean difference (*P* < .05 corrected). But the colours technically do not encode different significance levels, which is at least moderate evidence in favour of the winning model for all lines. |
| Bar graphs should not be used to display measures of central tendency, unless overlayed with single-participant data. Choose graph types showing features of the distribution, e.g. box plots or violin plots rather than bar graphs. | See comment above. Bar graphs for simulated data are fine. | We have rendered the single-participant data more visible, as requested. |
| Please include error bars (or equivalent) and define any error bars, shading, box plots etc in each Figure and Supplementary Figure where they are used. One statement at the end of each Figure caption is sufficient if the error bars are equivalent throughout the Figure. |  | We weren’t sure if the individual participant point spreads satisfied the error bar requirement or not, so we have converted bars to boxplots. |
| Wherever statistics have been derived (e.g. error bars, box plots, statistical significance) the legend needs to provide and define the n number (i.e. the sample size used to derive statistics) as a precise value (not a range), using the wording “n=X participants/ measurement occasions/groups/biologically independent samples/animals/independent experiments” etc. as applicable. | This needs to be incorporated for all Figures. All statistics conveyed via Figures must also be redundantly reported in the Results section. In legends as well as in the Results, please report all statistics in full, including for non-significant findings. | We have added the n values to the figure legends.  We are unable in practice to concisely tabulate full statistical reporting, assumptions tests and Bayesian prior sensitivity analysis where applicable for all of our numerous frequentist and Bayesian pairwise tests within the Results section or figure legends but have added eight supplementary tables to document this information, which we refer to in the Results section and figure legends. |
| Please pay close attention to our Digital Image Integrity Guidelines. Also ensure that you retain unprocessed data and metadata files after publication, ideally archiving data in perpetuity, as these may be requested during the peer review and production process or after publication if any issues arise. |  | All of the data we have possession of is archived at the GitHub cited in the submission. <https://github.com/nicholasfurl/Model_fitting_hybrid_study> |
| Tables in the main text  Please check that your Tables comply with the following:  Any bold/italic formatting must be either removed or defined clearly in a Table footnote.  Where Tables contain images, each image should appear in its own cell in the absence of any text.  All Tables must have a brief title. |  | Completed |
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| Supplementary Information Format and referencing  Supplementary Figures, small Supplementary Tables, any Supplementary text and Supplementary References must be provided in a single, separate PDF, labeled “Supplementary Information”.  All Supplementary items must be referred to in the manuscript. Please do not include general references to “Supplementary Material”; instead refer to specific items.  If you supply a title page for your Supplementary Information, please check that the manuscript title and author list matches the final version of the main manuscript.  Any text in the Supplementary Information must be labeled with one of the following subheadings: Supplementary Notes (1,2, 3…), Supplementary Methods or Supplementary Discussion. Please ensure you use these exact subheadings.  Supplementary Figures/Tables and their captions should be presented together. Please check that all Supplementary Figures have a caption, and that all Figure panels and any error bars are defined within. Please define any abbreviations used in the Supplementary Figures/Tables in the caption.  Additional files can be provided as Supplementary Movies, Supplementary Audio, or Supplementary Software (.zip folder). If you choose to supply additional files, legends must be included in this table (see below).  Any references in the Supplementary Information must be titled “Supplementary References”.  Supplementary Information files will be published together with the published article. This will be exactly the version that is submitted with the final version of your manuscript (no copy-editing or lay-out). Any highlighting or tracked changes should be removed from the file. | Requirements for Figures in the main text also apply to the SI. | Completed. SI figures have been reformatted. |
| Supplementary items must be cited in a consistent format throughout the main text and Supplementary Information. Names of items in the Supplementary file(s) must exactly match those used in the main manuscript. Please cite specific items of the Supplementary Information in the main text (such as Supplementary Figure 1), and not the Supplementary Information in its entirety.  If the items are not cited consistently, we will return the manuscript for corrections.  We recommend using the following naming formats: Supplementary Figure 1, Supplementary Table 1, Supplementary Data 1, Supplementary Note 1, and Supplementary References. |  | We have named the supplementary material items and cited them accordingly. |
| Source data for graphs and charts in the Supplementary Information: Please deposit any source data to suitable repositories (such as Figshare, Dryad, or a data type-specific repository if one exists), and provide access information in the Data availability Statement. Note that only the data used directly for generating the charts needs to be supplied. |  | <https://github.com/nicholasfurl/Model_fitting_hybrid_study> |