

The Role of Novelty in Intentional Forgetting

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INTRODUCTION

- Intentional forgetting - a goal-directed process that allows you to forget inaccurate or irrelevant information (Johnson, 1994)
- Well established with text, more limited evidence for visual imagery
- This work serves as a replication and comparison of Scotti & Maxcey (2022) & Hourihan et al. (2009)

What role does novelty play in intentional forgetting?

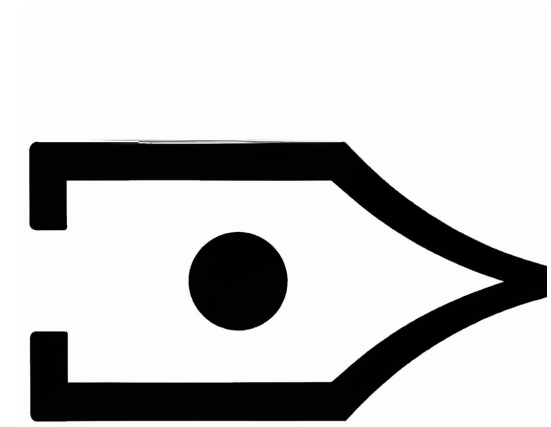
More specifically, are novel images easier to forget than everyday objects?

METHODS

- Stimuli: Everyday objects and simple AI-modified abstract images (100 images in total)
- Participants completed an item-method directed forgetting task
- Recall assessed using an old/new recognition task (200 images at test)
- Participants: English speakers from North America collected via Prolific (N=20)

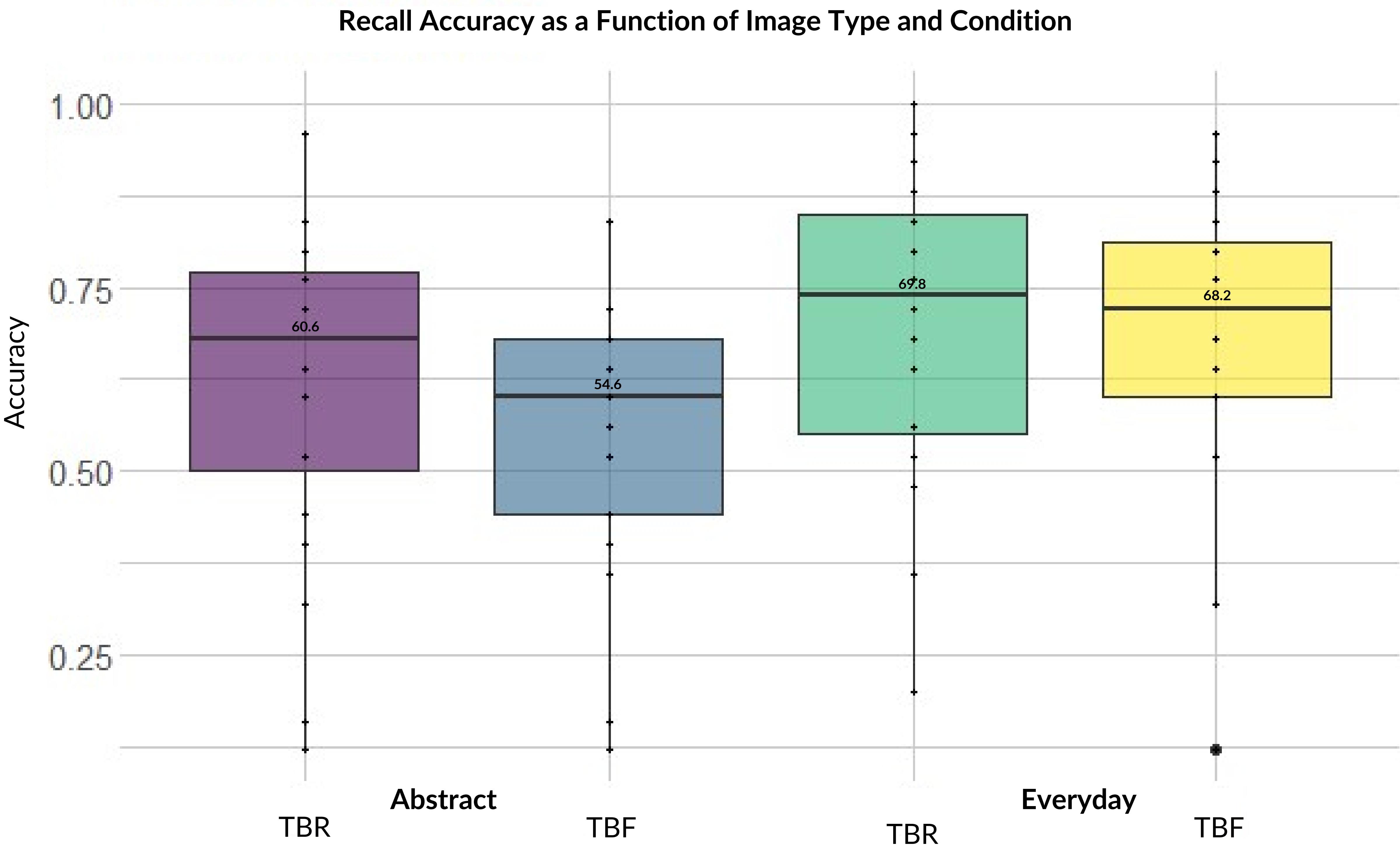


Everyday Object



Abstract Object

Novel abstract objects were more readily forgotten when compared to everyday objects



RESULTS

- A within-subjects ANOVA revealed a significant difference between the conditions ($F(1.99, 37.84) = 6.39$,
- $p < 0.004$, $\eta^2 = 0.083$).
- Pairwise comparisons showed that abstract objects in the TBF condition were remembered significantly less than everyday objects, regardless of condition

DISCUSSION

- Results may be due to differences in how participants processed or categorized the more novel abstract stimuli
- These findings suggests that novel information may be more susceptible to forgetting effects, especially when it fails to integrate with our prior experiences

How does the complexity of stimuli relate to the influence of novelty on memorability?

REFERENCES

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- Scotti, P. S., & Maxcey, A. M. (2022). Directed forgetting of pictures of everyday objects. *Journal of Vision*.