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Data Analysis from Two-Choice Decision Tasks in Visual Information Processing

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Abstract— Data analysis is an important task in research. The present study focuses on the analysis of data sets from human eye movement experiments. The results of the experiments were analyzed according to two criteria – gender and age of the participants. The participants were divided into three groups, group 1: between 20 and 35 years, group 2: between 36 and 55 years and group 3: between 56 and 85. The results showed that 75% of the two-choice decision tasks were solved correctly. This trend was maintained among the participants from group 1 – respectively 75.4%. The participants from group 2 gave more correct answers – respectively 82.2%, but the participants from group 3 gave fewer correct answers, respectively, 70.2%. The average value of the response time indicator (of all participants) was 1455 ms. The participants' response time from group 3 was longer than the average (respectively with 626 ms). The analysis outlined in this paper has the potential to be expanded upon. The movements of the participants' eyes are also documented during the experimental sessions and their answers to the tasks, and their reaction time. The information is saved in files with a particular structure (similar to the files from the experimental sessions). These files' data must be correctly modeled to be useful for further processing and analysis.

Keywords-Data analysis; human eye movements; visual information processing; two-choice decision tasks.

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I. INTRODUCTION

Different aspects of the generation of two-choice decision tasks based on visual stimuli [1]-[3] are discussed in various scientific publications. This is done in the study of decisionmaking processes in humans [4]. This field of science has been actively researched and developed in recent decades [5], [6]. The methods for analyzing the decision time in these tasks are also actively studied [7], [8]. For this purpose, various approaches based on neural networks have been developed and published [9, 10]. They are used to process the results after conducting the experimental sessions with the participants in the experiments [11]–[13]. These methods are also used in the analysis of decision-making processes [14], [15]. In these studies, various factors, such as age and gender and their influence on the decision-making processes are also analyzed [16], [17]. The data from these experiments are modeled and processed differently, for example, in relational databases and web services [18], [19]. In addition, the approaches to accessing this type of information are also different and are based on different technologies [20], [21].

For the research, specialized software was developed -DAT Library Explorer. It was used to process experimental data with additional functionality for exporting data to external files. Various aspects and software development methods are widely discussed in the scientific literature [22]– [26].

The participants in the experiment were grouped (conditionally) into three groups according to their age: between 20 and 35 years (group 1), between 36 and 55 years (group 2), and between 56 and 85 years (group 3). Preliminarily prepared sequences of frames (stimuli) were shown to each of the participants in the experiment. Each frame of each stimulus contains a specific number of points – 50. Depending on a predetermined level of coherence, each point can change its position between frames differently. For example, at a coherence level of 0%, the points change their positions chaotically, and at a coherence level of 100%, the points change their positions synchronized (arranged) in a specific direction. The coordinates and colors of the points for

each frame are preset. Each stimulus contains a sequence of 100 frames. The duration of one experiment (one experimental session) is 140 stimuli. Each stimulus is a kind of "visual" task for recognizing the direction of movement of a set of points, respectively left (Fig. 1) or right (Fig. 2). The parameter that changes is the offset of the center of the set of points from the center of the screen. This parameter has predefined seven levels, with values of 20, 40, 60, 80, 100, 120, and 140 pixels, respectively. Each experimental condition is called a variant. Each variant is repeated ten times (within one experiment).



Fig. 1 Stimulus cl606.bin (movement = combined, orientation = left, displacement = 60, variant = 6)



Fig. 2 Stimulus cr807.bin (movement = combined, orientation = right, displacement = 80, variant = 7)

According to the type of movement, four types of stimuli are distinguished, respectively combined: flicker, motion, and static. Static-type stimuli are a collection of 50 fixed points (stored in one frame). For other types of movement combined, flicker, and motion, the set of points changes depending on the rule of offset relative to the screen center. For example, all points are shifted at the same distance in a certain direction, or all points are rotated at a certain angle to the center of the screen. In the type of combined movement, the points move depending on the direction of their orientation. In the flicker motion type, one-third of the points are generated at new positions. In motion type, 36 of the 50 points move away from the center of the set, and the other 14 points move in a random direction. The purpose of these "visual tasks" is that the participants in the experiment should recognize the correct direction of the stimulus.

Each stimulus is stored in a separate file. The stimulus files have specific names. These names also provide additional information on some of the characteristics of the respective stimuli. The convention for naming a stimulus file is movement, orientation, displacement, and variant (.bin).

II. MATERIAL AND METHOD

Each participant in the experiment can answer any visual task (stimulus) before visualizing all its frames during one experimental session. The participant can stop displaying the current stimulus by pressing the left or right mouse button, depending on the recognized direction of the stimulus. This is an important feature in this type of experiment, and therefore the application that visualizes the stimuli also saves the decision-making time (i.e., reaction time) of each participant for each stimulus. The sequence of 140 visualized stimuli we call an experimental session.

Participants' answers are also stored during the experimental sessions. The information is stored in text files with the extension ".dat" (short for "data"). These files have a specific file structure. Each DAT file contains data for one experimental session per participant. The information stored in the DAT files and the structure of these files are presented in detail in Table 1.

TABLE I SPECIFICATION OF THE STRUCTURE OF DAT FILES

No	Parameter	Type (domain)	Description
1	StimulusNumber	Byte {0,,	The number of the stimulus.
		255}	The sequence number of
		Values {1,	the stimulus to be
		2,, 140}	visualized (within the
			current experimental
			session).
2	StimulusName	String	The name of the stimulus.
			They consist of the
			abbreviations of the
			parameters: Kind
			Movement, Orientation,
			Displacement, and Variant
3	ReactionTime	Integer	The participant's reaction
			time (decision-making time
			for the specific stimulus).
4	Response	Byte {0,,	The participant's answer
		255}	(for the direction of the
		0 : left;	stimulus).
		1 : right	

The name of each .dat file contains additional information that conforms to the file naming convention for this file type: GroupNumber_SubjectInitials_

KindMovementAbreviation Try.dat

GroupNumber is an index of an age group depending on the participant, SubjectInitials are the initials (first letters of the names) of the participant, Kind Movement Abbreviation is the abbreviation of the type of movement and Try is another experience of a participant (with this group of stimuli). Since there are ten variants for each group of stimuli (c, f, m or s), for each variant there are seven predefined conditions (displacement), and each stimulus is visualized twice, the total

number of visual tasks for one experimental session is 10 * 7 * 2 = 140.

The information for all experimental sessions is stored in different files. This way of organizing the data is not convenient for analyzing the information, as the data is in an unstructured format. Therefore, we combined all the data into a common data set with the following relational structure:

Experiments {

Group, Participant, Sex, Age, Try, Row, MovementKind, Direction, Displacement, Variant, Reaction, Response, Stimulus }

The data structure modeled provides opportunities for more convenient processing and analysis of the information from the experimental sessions. The study of the results from all experimental sessions is presented in the next section. Other results from this experiment were published in [27].

The experimental results were summarized and processed using the DAT Library Explorer application. It was developed for this study. With this application, the data can be sorted, filtered, and exported to external files and programs, such as those that support the comma-separated value format - CSV (Fig. 3).

Filter =		(Row = 1) AND (DirectionName = ResponseName)						1	V	Apply Filt	er 🚺	🗙 Delete	Rows	Export to Excel	
	Group	Subject	Gender	Age	Try	Row	MoveKindName	Direct	ionit	Displacen	Variant	Reaction	Response	BinFileName	
•	1	ah	male	27	1	1	Combined	Right		140	7	920	Right	cr1407.cbn	1.
	1	dr	male	27	1	1	Combined	Left		120	5	874	Left	d1205.cbn	
	1	dr	male	27	2	1	Combined	Left		100	6	812	Left	d1006.cbn	
	1	dr	male	27	1	1	Flicker	Right		80	6	1653	Right	gr806.cbn	
	1	dr	male	27	2	1	Flicker	Right		60	4	811	Right	gr604.cbn	
	1	dr	male	27	1	1	Motion	Left		20	5	1139	Left	ml205.cbn	
	1	ds	male	22	1	1	Combined	Right		100	3	1077	Right	cr 1003.cbn	
	1	ds	male	22	2	1	Combined	Left		20	4	2356	Left	cl204.cbn	
	1	ds	male	22	1	1	Flicker	Right		60	3	1747	Right	gr603.cbn	
	1	ds	male	22	2	1	Flicker	Right		80	4	936	Right	gr804.cbn	
	1	ds	male	22	1	1	Motion	Right		120	7	1311	Right	mr1207.cbn	
	1	ds	male	22	2	1	Motion	Left		20	9	998	Left	ml209.cbn	
	1	ds	male	22	1	1	Static	Right		140	4	826	Right	sr1404.cbn	
	1	ds	male	22	2	1	Static	Left		60	0	1326	Left	sl600.cbn	
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Fig. 1 Working session with the DAT Library Explorer application

No Participant Initials, Sex Group Age Number of Stimulus Number of Sessions SUM Reaction Time (ms) AVG Reaction Time (ms) Correct answers Incorrect answers 1 AH (M) 1 27 559 4 355 426 635.82 427 132 2 DR (M) 1 27 1120 8 1160 843 1 036.47 936 184 3 DS (M) 1 22 1119 8 962 005 859.70 891 228 4 HIM (M) 1 23 1259 9 1 367 905 1 086.50 981 278 5 KAP (F) 1 32 1120 8 1 883 687 1 681.86 690 430 6 KAT (F) 1 30 1118 8 1 050 098 939.26 894 224 7 KR (F) 1 23 1119 8 998 342 892.17 901 218 9 RSK (F)
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20 SIM (M) 2 36 1120 8 1653 275 1476.14 962 158
21 TST (M) 2 41 1119 8 843 761 754.03 879 240
22 VEL(M) 2 41 1119 8 1 201 737 1 073.94 716 403
23 ATH (F) 3 62 1120 8 2 683 231 2 395.74 942 178
24 DD (M) 3 68 1120 8 3 581 897 3 198.12 958 162
25 DEN (F) 3 74 1373 10 2 843 948 2 071.34 1145 228
26 DZ(M) 3 84 1113 8 2185 392 1 963 51 706 407
27 GB(M) 3 83 840 6 1142188 135975 360 480
28 KA(M) 3 59 1119 8 1374257 122811 932 187
29 LBR(M) 3 73 279 2 238 308 854 15 251 28
30 LYD (M) 3 57 1399 10 3 745 091 2 676 98 755 644
31 PAV (F) 3 73 1219 9 1999 361 1 640 16 826 393
31 1111 3 1213 1 15051 16160 620 533 32 PM(M) 3 62 1120 8 2268 227 2.055.0 0.00 211
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TABLEII

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

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1256

3

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VAG (F)

In the present study, we analyzed two indicators: the percentage of correct answers to all answers and the reaction time when deciding by the participants (when "solving" the visual tasks). For both indicators, the results were analyzed,

both depending on the gender of the participants and their age. Table 2 shows the summary data from experiments that were conducted with 35 participants. The participants were divided into 3 groups according to their age (as described at the beginning of section 2 in this paper).

809

447

3 123.87

9

3 923 579

To analyze the results, it was necessary to summarize Table 2 according to different criteria. For each group, the values for minimum, maximum, total, and average were calculated, respectively. Table 3 shows the summarized average data from the conducted experiments, respectively, for all participants, for women, for men, and for age groups.

Group	Age	Number of Stimuli	Number of Sessions	AVG Reaction time (in ms)	Correct Answers	Incorrect Answers	Correct Answers (%)	Incorrect Answers (%)
Total	46.94	1 093.11	7.83	1 454.62	824.66	268.46	75.81%	24.19%
Female	50.06	1 141.13	8.19	1 565.82	858.69	282.44	75.55%	24.45%
Male	44.32	1 052.68	7.53	1 360.98	796.00	256.68	76.04%	23.96%
Group 1	25.58	1 049.17	7.50	971.73	790.92	258.25	75.14%	24.86%
Group 2	43.10	1 119.40	8.00	1 219.56	920.70	198.70	82.25%	17.75%
Group 3	69.62	1 113.46	8.00	2 081.19	781.92	331.54	71.48%	28.52%

TABLE III THE SUMMARIZED AVERAGE DATA FROM THE CONDUCTED EXPERIMENTS

The row "Total" of Table 3 shows the average values of the data for all participants in the experiment. These values are distributed in columns as follows: the average number of stimuli, the average number of sessions, average reaction time (in milliseconds), the average number of correct answers, the average number of incorrect answers, percentage of correct answers, and percentage of incorrect answers. The rows "Female" and "Male" show the average values of the data when the participants are grouped according to their gender. The rows "Group 1", "Group 2", and "Group 3" show the average values of the data when the participants are grouped according to their age.



From the summarized data for all participants, it can be seen that in 3/4 of the visual tasks (stimuli) the correct answers are recognized. This is approximately 75% of all cases (Table 3 and Fig. 4). This ratio is maintained in the distribution of participants depending on their gender. The correct answers in this case are 75.2% for women and 75.6% for men. These results can be seen in Table 3 and Fig. 6. It can be concluded that in the experiments conducted related to the correct determination of the visual direction of the stimuli, gender does not influence the correct decision.

In grouping the participants by age, the ratio of 3/4 correct answers to 1/4 wrong answers (i.e., 75% versus 25%) is

maintained only in Group 1. These are the participants aged between 20 and 35 years. The correct answers in this group of participants are 75.4%, which can be seen in Fig. 7. In Group 2 there is an increase in the correct answers to 82.2% (Fig. 7). In Group 3, however, there was a decrease in the average number of correct answers to 70.2%.





We can conclude that the percentage of correct answers of the participants from group 1 (between 20 and 35 years) is comparable to that of the correct answers given by all participants (Table 3, Fig. 5). In age group 2 (participants between 36 and 55 years) there is an increase in the number of correct answers (on average by 9% more) compared to the average number of correct answers for all participants. In contrast, in age group 3 (participants over 56 years) there is a decrease in the average number of correct answers. In this case, the correct answers are 7% less than the correct answers for all participants. This ratio is shown in Fig. 5. The values show that in the groupings "Total", "Female", "Male", and "Group 1" the results are almost identical. In Group 2 there is an increase in the number of correct answers as opposed to a decrease in the number of correct answers in Group 3.

The analysis of the values of the decision time (reaction time) showed that there is a difference in this criterion, both in terms of gender and in terms of the age of the participants in the experiment. The average decision time was 1455 milliseconds (row "Total" in Table 3). The values of this indicator vary the most in Groups 1 and 3. In Group 3 the decision time is higher than the average by 43%, and in Group 1, the decision time is less than the average by 49.6% (Table 3 and Fig. 11). When grouping the participants by gender, the decision time between the two groups is commensurate; respectively, the average decision time for "Male" is 1361 ms and for "Female" is 1566 ms. The average decision time of the "Female" group was 205 ms longer than the average decision time of the "Male" group (Fig. 8).



When grouping the participants by age, the values of the decision-making times for each of the groups in relation to the others are as follows: 972 ms / 1220 ms / 2081 ms. The difference in the values of this indicator for Group 1 and Group 2 is approximately 248 ms. This value is commensurate with the difference in decision time between the "Male" and "Female" groups. However, the absolute value of this indicator between groups 3 and 2 is 862 ms. This value is much larger (on the order of 3.48 times) compared to the difference for the same indicator between groups 1 and 2. It can be concluded that with the age increase, decision-making time increases significantly (for this particular type of visual task) (Fig. 9).



Fig. 9 Reaction time by age (in ms)



Fig. 10 Reaction time by groups (in ms)

Fig. 10 shows (in order) the decision-making times, both when grouping participants by gender and by age. Fig. 11 shows a similar arrangement of decision times, which, however, is compared to the average decision time for all participants. Based on the obtained results, the following conclusion can be formulated: the time for decision-making in this type of visual tasks depends, in direct proportion, on the age of a participant and not on their gender.



Fig. 11 Reaction time – total (in ms)

IV. CONCLUSION

The present study was related to analyzing experimental data generated during experiments in which participants solved visual tasks with two possible answers. The experiments were conducted as follows: visual tasks (stimuli) were shown to a certain group of participants. The answers that the participants gave for each task were stored in files with a specific structure. The target group of participants was divided first into two groups according to the sex of the participants and then into three groups according to the age of the participants. After analyzing the experimental data, it was found that: the ratio of correct answers to incorrect answers (given by all participants in the experiment) is 75% (correct answers) to 25% (incorrect answers). Similar results were found when grouping the participants according to their gender - respectively for "Male" 76.04% (correct answers) to 23.96% (incorrect answers) and for "Female" 75.14% (correct answers) to 24.86% (incorrect answers).

These results showed that in this type of visual tasks the gender of the participants did not affect the quality of the answers. When the participants were grouped according to their age, the analysis of the results showed that the ratio of correct to incorrect answers was comparable to the average only for the participants from Group 1 (between 20 and 35 years). This ratio is as follows: 75.14% (correct answers) to 24.86% (incorrect answers). In Group 2 (participants between 36 and 55 years) an increase in the percentage of correct answers was found – 82.25% (to 17.75% incorrect answers). In Group 3 (participants between 56 and 85 years), however, it was found that the average number of correct answers is lower than the average number of correct answers for all participants in the experiment - respectively 71.48% (to 28.52% incorrect answers).

Regarding the decision time criterion, it was found that the average decision time for all participants in the experiment was 1455 ms, respectively. The values of this indicator vary the most in the participants from groups 3 and 1. In Group 3, the decision time reaches values higher than the average by approximately 43%. In Group 1, however, the decision time is significantly shorter and reaches values lower than the average by approximately 49.6%. The analysis of the decision time when grouping the participants by gender showed that

the decision time for women is on average about 205 ms longer than for men.

The research work presented in this paper can be further extended. During the experimental sessions and the answers to the tasks and the participants' reaction time, the movements of their eyes are also recorded. The data is stored in files with a specific structure (similar to the files from the experimental sessions). The data from these files need to be appropriately modeled so that they are convenient for further processing and analysis.

V. CONCLUSION

The present study was related to analyzing experimental data generated during experiments in which participants solved visual tasks with two possible answers. The experiments were conducted as follows: visual tasks (stimuli) were shown to a certain group of participants. The answers that the participants gave for each task were stored in files with a specific structure. The target group of participants was divided first into two groups according to the sex of the participants, and then into three groups according to the age of the participants. After analyzing the experimental data, it was found that: the ratio of correct answers to incorrect answers (given by all participants in the experiment) is 75% (correct answers) to 25% (incorrect answers). Similar results were found when grouping the participants according to their gender - respectively for "Male" 76.04% (correct answers) to 23.96% (incorrect answers) and for "Female" 75.14% (correct answers) to 24.86% (incorrect answers). These results showed that in this type of visual task the gender of the participants did not affect the quality of the answers. When the participants were grouped according to their age, the analysis of the results showed that the ratio of correct to incorrect answers was comparable to the average only for the participants from Group 1 (between 20 and 35 years). This ratio is as follows: 75.14% (correct answers) to 24.86% (incorrect answers). In Group 2 (participants between 36 and 55 years) an increase in the percentage of correct answers was found - 82.25% (to 17.75% incorrect answers). In Group 3 (participants between 56 and 85 years), however, it was found that the average number of correct answers is lower than the average number of correct answers for all participants in the experiment - respectively 71.48% (to 28.52% incorrect answers).

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