Does Precuing a Target Location Narrow the Distribution of Attention?

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Mean flanker effects were computed for all participants and averaged across participants.

Polynomial regression was used to establish the best-fitting function for individual participants, by condition.

Mean flanker effects (incompatible-compatible, and incompatible-neutral), were submitted to planned, repeated-measures ANOVAs for each combination of load and cue-target SOA.

Significant linear and quadratic trends in low-load, 0 ms, and 100 ms SOA conditions.

Significant linear, quadratic and cubic trends in the low-load, 200 ms SOA condition.

No significant trends in the high-load conditions, except for a linear trend with the compatible baseline at 0 ms SOA.

Average locations of local maxima were significantly closer to the target location in the low load conditions for both the compatible and neutral baselines.

Visible trend for maxima to move closer to target location as predicted by the selective tuning model, but the outcome was statistically non-significant.

No evidence of a Mexican-hat-like distribution in any of the high load conditions.

The findings in the low load conditions are largely compatible with past research, and give evidence of a suppressive annulus surrounding the focus of attention.

Width and location of the suppressive region in the low load conditions varied with precue SOA.

No evidence of a Mexican hat-like distribution in any of the high load conditions.

Participants (238 PSU students) were randomly assigned to the between-subjects conditions of the design.

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Selected References
