

Pupillometry (with a focus on children and language)

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Basics

Pupillometry... looking back

- Connection between cognitive processing and pupillary dilation noticed at the end of the 19th century
- Every active intellectual process, every psychological effort, every exertion of attention, every active mental image, regardless of content, particularly every affect just as truly produces pupil enlargement as does every sensory stimulus."

Oswald Bumke in 1911, cited from Hess (1975, p. 23–24)

- Pupillometry pioneer: Otto Lowenstein (Thompson, 2005)
- Irene E. Loewenfeld (1993) The Pupil: Anatomy, Physiology and Clinical Applications. Iowa State University Press.
 - The book comprises the work of Lowenstein and Loewenfeld
 - A standard reference on pupil research

Image source: Thompson, H. S. (2005). Otto Lowenstein, Pioneer Pupillographer. Journal of Neuro-Ophthalmology, 25(1), 44-49.



FIG. 12. Loewenfeld and Lowenstein in the central yard at Columbia University in the late 1950s.

Pupillometry... not so new but much easier now



Image sources: BabyLAB Potsdam/Thomas Hölzel Thompson, H. S. (2005). Otto Lowenstein, Pioneer Pupillographer. *Journal of Neuro-Ophthalmology, 25*(1), 44-49.

FIG. 6. Recording pupil movements (late 1920s). This is one of Lowenstein's early arrangements. The lights were still very hot and had to be cooled by circulating water.

What is pupillometry?



- Pupil: the hole in the middle of the iris, adjusting the light level that reaches the retina
 - Size is controlled by two opposing muscles connected to the parasympathetic (constrictor/sphincter) and sympathetic (dilator) nervous system
 - Typical size: 3-5 mm(range: 1-9 mm) gets smaller by .04 per year
- The measure of pupil size across time, 2 dimensions:
 - Amplitude (diameter or area)
 - Temporal info (onset, duration, latency)
 - Comparable to a single-channel EEG



Image source: Mathôt (2018, p. 2)



Pupil Oscillations

- Pupillary Hippus: Rhythmic but irregular (usually <0.04 Hz) constrictions and dilations independent of eye movements or luminance changes
- Spontaneous oscillations (especially in the dark/sleepiness waves), usually < 0.5 Hz</p>
- Pupillary Light Reflex
 - Increase in light: constriction, with a latency of ~200 ms and a peak at 500–1000 ms
 - Indicator of neurological status
- Pupil Near Response
 - Constriction in response to looking at a nearby object, dilation for far-away objects
- Psychosensory Pupil Response
 - [Next slide]

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"Any sensory occurrence - whether tactile, auditory, gustatory, olfactory, or noxious - evokes a pupillary reflex dilation." (Beatty & Lucero-Wagoner, 2000, p. 145)

- Not only external sensory events, but also internal (hence PSYCHOsensory):
 - Emotions

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- Mental processes
- Increases in intentional efforts
- Motor output preparation

Time scales of pupil size changes



The pupil is *slow* when compared to eye movements (gaze) or electrophysiological responses.

Changes occur on the scale of seconds rather than on a millisecond scale

- Phasic
 - Rapid (relatively) and transient / time-locked
 - In response to an (external or internal) event (i.e. psychosensory responses)
- Tonic
 - Slow and long lasting / continuous
 - State of arousal/emotion or mode of processing information
 - Influence of medical conditions/illnesses, pharmacological effects (i.e. drugs)
- Rhythmic
 - Frequency-based / oscillations, fluctuations
 - Related to mental states (sleepiness), external stimuli (entrainment > <u>Alan Langus</u>) or cognitive processing (Index of Cognitive Activity/ICA, Demberg et al., 2013)



- Term taken from Beatty & Lucero-Wagoner (2000, p. 147) other (more general) term: Pupil Dilation Response (PDR)
- A non-reflexive phasic pupillary movement
- TEPRs serve as "empirically based reporter indicators for brain processes that underlie the dynamic, intensive aspects of human cognition"
- General properties:
 - Response delay: 200–300 ms
 - Peak at about 1200 ms (500–2000 ms)
 - Amplitude is small (less than .5 mm) compared to pupillary light reflex
 - These values vary with task, modality, age, ...

TEPR as an index of cognitive load

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- Arithmetic problems (Hess & Polt ,1964)
- Memory
 - STM load (Kahneman & Beatty, 1966)
 - LTM retrieval (Beatty & Kahneman, 1966)
- Perception, e.g. pitch discrimination (Kahneman & Beatty, 1967)
- Language
 - Syntactic complexity (Schluroff, 1982; Just & Carpenter, 1993)
 - Grammaticality violations (Gutiérrez & Shapiro, 2010)
 - Sentence comprehension (Wright & Kahneman, 1971)
 - Context integration (Engelhardt et al., 2010)
- Attention (Beatty, 1982, 1988)
- Responding (similar to ERP components CNV or RP)
- Standard tests of "concentration"

Influences and interpretations of pupil size



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Our first study (as an example)

Mispronunciation detection in children



Study	Age (months)	Language	Method	Manipulation	Mispro Detection?
Swingley, 2005	11	Dutch	HPP	onset or offset	onset: ✓ offset: ≭
Yoshida et al., 2009	14	Englsih	Habituation + Preferential looking	Habituation +novel words:Preferential looking1st consonant	
Ballem & Plunkett, 2005	14	English	Learning + Preferential looking	novel & familiar words: 1 st consonant (1 feature)	\checkmark
Mani et al., 2012	14	English	ERP	vowels (1 feature)	\checkmark
Swingley, 2003	19	Dutch	Preferential looking	first or medial consonant	\checkmark
Swingley & Aslin, 2000	18-23	English	Preferential looking	1 st segment or vowel	\checkmark
Höhle et al., 2006	19	German	Preferential looking	1 st consonant	\checkmark
White & Morgan, 2008	19	English	Preferential looking	1 st consonant (1-3 features)	\checkmark
Mani & Plunkett, 2011	18 24	English	Preferential looking	vowels (1-3 features)	× √

Why pupillometry?



Preferential looking

- Two referents are needed to induce a selection process based on how auditory and visual information match or mismatch
- Referent for the distractor is theoretically not of interest but may influence the results
- EEG & pupillometry
 - Only one picture is shown: the influence of finding a referent or lexical selection/competition is avoided > reduction of task demands
- Pupillometry vs. EEG
 - Easier to administer than EEG
 - Good temporal resolution (50-60 Hz), not as good as EEG
 - Pupillary changes are slower than EEG waves

Method & Participants



Method

- Materials from Höhle et al., 2006 (preferential looking)
 - Pictures slightly adjusted
- Apparatus
 - Tobii 1750 (50 Hz)

Participants

- Children (N=25)
 - Age range: 29-31 months
 - 12 girls, 13 boys
- Adults (N=28)
 - Mean age: 24 years (18-38)
 - 20 women, 8 men

Fritzsche & Höhle (2015). Phonological and lexical mismatch detection in 30-month-olds and adults measured by pupillometry. ICPhS.

Stimulus design: Experimental items



Picture	Corroct	Michronunciation	Unrelated		Fillorg	
	correct	wispronunciation	Word	Nonword	FILLEIS	
	Tisch	Kisch	Kamm	Tamm	Rett	
	Kamm	Tamm	Tisch	Kisch		
4	Ро	Ко	Schaf	Saaf	🢓 Huhn	
(Fige	Schaf	Saaf	Ро	Ко	Reh	
	Kuh	Puh	Fisch	Sisch	Maus	
	Fisch	Sisch	Kuh	Puh		

Time course of a trial





- No inter-stimulus interval, after 4 trials an attention-getting stimulus
- 3 blocks of 10 items (6 test items, 4 fillers)
- Combined with another study that was unrelated to this

Predictions



- Larger pupils for mispronunciations vs. correct labels
 - Discovering the relation between a mispronounced word and a picture requires more effort than for correct labels (reconstructing the correct phonological form or accessing the matching lexical entry)
- Larger pupils for unrelated words vs. correct labels
- Differences between unrelated words and non words

Data Management



- (1) Inclusion of participants who saw all trials
- (2) Replacement of missing data
 - Linear interpolation for missing data of max. 400 ms (blinks)
 - Exclusion of trials with more than 400 ms data missing
 - Trials with less than 50% of eye-tracking data were removed
- (3) Averaging both pupil size values
- (4) Baseline adjustment
 - Baseline of 500 ms before onset of the word
 - Calculation of baseline-corrected pupil change measure
 - Removal of trials without baseline data
- Mean no. of trials per condition (after removing data)
 - Children: 4.8–5.2 (of 6)
 - Adults: 5.6–5.8

Results: Children 1





Results: Children 2



First naming Second naming 0.5-0.4-Unrelated nonword 0.3-Variation in pupil diameter [mm] Condition - correct — mispro - unrelated 🕶 filler Unrelated word 0.1 0.0--0.1-2000 3000 0 10 Time relative to word onset [ms] 1000 2000 1000 2000 3000 0

Mean pupil change in children

Results: Adults





Mean pupil change in adults

ANOVA: Significant effects



ANOVA

Factors: age, unrel, win, cond

 Age *p*<.01 Cond *p*<.01 Win *p*<.001 Age x Win *p*<.01 Cond x Win *p*<.001 Age x Unrel x Cond *p*<.05

Single comparisons with *t*-tests

* p<.05

** p<.01

Mean pupil change after word onset of first naming



Interpretation



- Mispronunciation detection is visible in pupil responses after approx. 1000 ms of word onset
- This might indicate higher processing costs of reconstructing/or activating the correct form or integrating information
- Larger pupils do not seem to reflect a surprise for an unexpected word form because unrelated items (in children) did not lead to this response
- In the presence of a non word condition makes a differences in adults (but not in children
 - Here the effect is significant later, perhaps the effort to process correct and mispronounced labels (=words) seems to be higher (relative to the non words)

Audio-visual word (mis)match (Kuipers & Thierry, 2013)



- Monolinguals no difference in pupil measures
 - Positive correlation with N400: larger pupil ~ larger N400
- Interpretation

No task

Results

- Pupil size = attention (more attention to unexpected stimuli)
- More efficient stimulus processing in bilinguals



Mispronunciation detection (Tamási et al., 2017)

- Picture Word pairs
 - Presentation order: image (1 s), then word
 - No task
 - 4 conditions: correct pronunciations + 3 mismatches (number of phonological features varied: e.g. *baby daby faby shaby*)
 - 20 experimental trials +20 fillers, 20 from another study, 35 correct items (no items were repeated!)
 - 43 monolingual children (mean age: 30 months) + 5 drop outs
 - Tobii 1750 (50Hz)
- Results
 - Gradient increase of pupil size with "larger" mispronunciations
- Interpretation
 - Pupil size = cognitive effort to establish a link between stimulus and lexical representation; the pupil response is not completely graded
- Follow-up: Tamási et al. (2019)
 - Implementation as a preferential looking study
 - Same results, target looking proportions is inversely related to pupil size







Gaze replay







Practical issues

Why pupillometry?

- What is the age group?
- What is the research question?
- What are the stimuli
 - Visual or audio only
 - Audio-visual
 - Single words, phrases, sentences
- What is the task or is there one at all?
- Is pupil size the primary dependent variable?
 - Only pupil size
 - For previously unexplored phenomena: Add a condition for which pupil size effects have been reported
 - Pupil size in addition to other measures (gaze data, responses, EEG, etc.)



Paradigms



- Pupillometry has been done with a variety of eye-tracking/testing paradigms:
 - Violation of Expectation
 - Single Screen Fixation
 - (Intermodal) Preferential Looking / Picture Selection
 - Habituation/Familiarisation procedures
 - Anticipatory Eye Movements
 - Reading
- A visual stimulus is not required, but for infants and children a fixation cross is too boring
- Complex scenes (Visual World Paradigm) or video clips are not recommended
- Design: If possible vary conditions within participants





- Passive participation (watching and/or listening)
 - Depending on the research question this might be suitable but can get boring
 - It needs to made sure that the information is processed to obtain processing effects (this seems to be more relevant to pupillometry than to eye tracking / gaze measures), especially if non-reflexive processing effects are investigated
- Overt tasks requiring some kind of response, i.e. answers, judgements, button presses, etc.
 - Helps in engaging in the task (avoid boredom) and provides additional information
 - Might affect pupil size:
 - Response preparation is likely to increase and prolong pupil size (Winn et al., 2018, p. 7)
 - Difficult task > pupil dilation
 - Pressure/stress/emotions will affect pupil size

Luminance

- Pupillary light reflex (initial constriction) is much bigger and masks cognitive effects/TEPRs
- **●**[™]Control for
 - Luminance of stimuli
 - Different colours of the same luminosity are perceived differently (Corney et al., 2009)
 - Helmholtz-Kohlrausch effect: Red and blue appear brighter than equiluminant yellow and green
 - Lighting of room
 - Natural light varies > challenge for testing not in the lab
- Choosing a good baseline window might reduce or even eliminate the effects



Image source: Bradley et al. (2008, p. 603)





Visual stimuli

- Make sure your expected effects can not be explained by differences in luminance (this is often the first question of a reviewer)
 - If possible: Use the same images for different conditions
 - Adjust luminance levels
- Image size should be as small as possible
 - Reduces eye movements and thereby gaze position effects on pupil size measurement
 - Reduces effects of luminance and colour in different parts of the image
- Number of trials
 - Power analysis (interacts with number of participants)
 - Winn et al. (2018) recommend 16-18 "good" trials per condition
 - Fatigue effects: will result in smaller pupil responses

Stimulus repetitions

- Repetitions are likely to influence the effects
- "Reliable habituation of the PDR across multiple presentations of task-irrelevant stimuli" (adults for orienting responses, cited from Nieuwenhuis et al., 2011, p. 166)
- From a mispronunciation detection task with children and adults (Fritzsche & Höhle. 2015):



Mean pupil change in children



Timing

Pupillometry – TU Dortmund (2-Jul 2021)

• Timing largely depends on the phenomenon investigated, there are no recommendations that fit all situations

Time for the baseline (prior to the critical information)

- Time for the pupil to recover
- It is not advisable to just add pupillometry to an existing design
- Time for the pupillary effect (needs more time than gaze shifts to a target)
- Pupillometry-specific considerations:

• Like in any eye-tracking study, timing is crucial!



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Devices: How is pupil size measured?

Diameter

- Units: mm (Tobii, SMI), pixels, arbitrary units (EyeLink)
- Horizontal, vertical or average diameter?
- Left eye, right eye, averaged?

Area

- Units: pixels or arbitrary units (EyeLink, ranges between 100 and 1000)
- Pupil size is affected by gaze position
 - Up to 10% (EyeLink 1000 User Manual 1.5.0, p. 95)
 - Tobii claims (info at a Tobii workshop) that TobiiStudio uses a 3D model of the eye to estimate pupil size (which should reduce position effects)
- "Arbitrary" really means that: it is specific and unique to each participant (depending on the calibration) and therefore not comparable

* Source: <u>https://www.sr-research.com/eye-tracking-blog/background/pupillometry-research/</u>



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Analysis of the curves that describe the pupil size changes

Example in Engelhardt et al. (2010, p. 642)

- Growth curve analysis
- Functional data analysis: Sylvain Sirois: https://oraprdnt.uqtr.uquebec.ca/pls/public/gscw031?owa_no_site=314&owa_no_fiche=3
- Generalised Additive Mixed Models (GAMMs): van Rij et al. (2019)

- Pupil size dynamics (changes) Linear: Slope of the change in a specified time window
- Latency: time of max. peak dilation
- Peak dilation
 - Amplitude: maximum dilation after a critical time point
- Average pupil size in a specified time window Choice of window is crucial

Measures

Mean pupil dilation



Data processing steps



Pipeline (inspired from: Kret & Sjak-Shie, 2019, Mathôt et al., 2018)

- 1. Preparing the raw output for processing
 - How are missing data marked? (e.g. Tobii 1750: -1, SMI: 0), recommendation: convert them to 'NaN'
 - Convert to a readable format (e.g. edf files from EyeLink to txt files)
- 2. Cleaning the raw data to extract the valid samples subset
 - Outlier and artifact removal
 - Check/correct gaze position artifacts
 - Quantify & document corrections and missing data
- 3. Up-sampling and smoothing the valid samples
 - Averaging both eyes (if available and desired)
 - Interpolation of missing data
 - Smoothing/filtering/up-sampling
- 4. Splitting the data into the relevant segments
 - Based the relevant timepoints and windows
- 5. Baseline calculation
- 6. Analysis

Data management: Missing data

- Keep the full (continuous) recording
- Unlike gaze data, pupillometry data can be recovered



- Image source: Kret & Sjak-Shie (2019, p. 1338)
- a.Blink
- **b.Erroneous data points**
- c. Spurious samples

- Short missing stretches (from blinks ~250 ms) can be interpolated
- Interpolation procedures: linear, nonlinear (splines)
- Check that missing data/blinks do not vary systematically (with condition)

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- The baseline ensures that the change is time-locked to a task/event
- Different ways
 - Subtractive baseline: Most commonly applied baseline
 - Divisive baseline (baseline + normalisation): This is sensitive to the baseline value, This may distort the effects, especially with large fluctuations in baseline values
 - Some analyses might not require a baseline (e.g. GAMMs, van Rij et al., 2019)



Data management: Baseline size

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- Baseline size should be related to
 - What is presented during the baseline (blank screen, fixation, other material)
 - Size of the analysis window
 - Duration of the effect
- Baselines sizes in studies
 - Up to 1000 ms (or longer9
 - Some prefer short baselines (Mathôt et al., 2018)

Wetzel et al. (2016) Linear mixed models (LME) Honach & Westermann (20

Analysis

ANOVA

- Hepach & Westermann (2013)
- Tamási et al. (2017, 2019)

Hochman & Papeo (2014)

- Functional data analysis
 - Jackson & Sirois (2009)
- Generalised Additive Mixed Models (GAMMs)
 - van Rij et al. (2019)
 - Porretta & Tucker (2019)
- Growth Curve Analysis (GCA)
 - Wagner et al. (2019)
- Principal Components Analysis (PCA)
 - Wetzel et al. (2020)
- Permutation analysis
 - Csink et al. (2021)



Software packages & online resources

- Info: Eye tracking for pupillometry SR Research https://www.sr-research.com/eye-tracking-blog/background/pupillometry-research/

Pipeline for preprocessing data collected with SR Research EyeLink eye trackers PupillometryR: <u>https://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/PupillometryR/index.html</u>



CHAP: https://in.bgu.ac.il/en/Labs/CNL/chap/default.aspx

Kyröläinen, Porretta, van Rij, & Järvikivi (2020)

Hershman, Henik, & Cohen (2019)

Forbes & Robinson (2020)

- Processing and analysing pupillometry data for different eye trackers (EyeLink, Tobii, ASL, Eye Tribe)
- Paper and scripts: <u>https://github.com/smathot/baseline-pupil-size-study</u> " python 🖻
 - Mathôt, Fabius, van Heusden, & Van der Stigchel (2018)
 - Preprocessing and baseline-correction of eye-tracking data

PupilPre: https://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/PupilPre/index.html

Presentation from the CLEAR workshop 2019 in Potsdam: <u>https://www.uni-potsdam.de/wild2019/assets/Forbes_PupillometryR.html</u>

- Paper and scripts: <u>https://github.com/ElioS-S/pupil-size</u>
 - Kret & Sjak-Shie (2019)
 - Preprocessing pupil size data for all eye tracker types







MATLAB[®]

Literature suggestions with links (articles)



- Beatty & Lucero-Wagoner (2000) The pupillary system
 - A bit older but very nice overview and starting point
- Hepach & Westermann (2016) Pupillometry in infancy research
 - Good intro for pupillometry with infants
- Winn et al. (2018) Best practices and advice for using pupillometry to measure listening effort
 - Very practical and detailed guide, focused on auditory studies, contains information for testing children
- Nieuwenhuis et al. (2011) P3 and autonomic components of the orienting response
 - Focus is not on pupillometry but contains lots of information about pupil responses and their relation to different tasks and other measures (ERP components and skin conductance), also looks at habituation effects
- Sirois & Brisson (2014) Pupillometry
 - Nice intro and some information on data processing and analysis (adults)
- Laeng et al. (2012) Pupillometry
 - Good overview, relation to brain activity, a section on development
- Zekveld et al. (2018) The pupil dilation response to auditory stimuli
 - Comprehensive review of 146 studies on auditory processing, some with children, evaluation of the method
- Schmidtke (2018) Pupillometry in linguistic research
 - Reviews papers with linguistic research using pupillometry (adults and a few child studies)

Extremely comprehensive, thorough and detailed book on all kinds of eye-tracking methods and measures (but just a few pages on pupillometry)

"Choice of methods and measures should be tailored to your research question and experimental design" (p. 464)

Holmqvist, K., Nyström, M., Andersson, R., Dewhurst, R., Jarodzka, H., & van de Weijer, J. (2011). Eye Tracking: A Comprehensive Guide to Methods and Measures. Oxford University Press.





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More studies



Memory load (Kahneman & Beatty, 1966)

- Digit memory task (3-7 digits)
 - Remembering digits store one digit/second, then recall 1 per second
 - 5 adult participants
 - Original: camera, replication Tobii 1750 (50Hz)

Results

- Memorisation: Dilation
- Recall: Constriction
- Interpretation
 - Pupil size = memory load
 - Practise effects: reduction in repetition





Expectancy violations (Scheepers et al., 2013)



- Listening to Limericks while fixating a cross
 - Different limericks: 18 without and 20 with violations
 - 40 adult participants
 - Head-mounted EyeLink II 500Hz
- Results
 - Larger pupils for violations of rhyme only
 - Additional offline task
 - All violations were detected
 - Rhyme violations were rated as most anomalous
- Interpretation
 - Conflict between expectation and input
 - Pupil size = emotional arousal, NOT: processing load or surprisal

There once was a dashing young mouse Who was bored with only one spouse. "I think one more wife, Would add spice to my life, And be nicer to have round the house." And be nicer to have round the blouse." And be nicer to have the round house." And be nicer to have round the flat." And be nicer to have around the flat."



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Syntactic complexity (Just & Carpenter, 1993)

- Reading subject and object relatives
 - Exp.1: SRC/ORC, 36 trials + 24 fillers

The reporter that ... attacked the senator the senator attacked

- 35 adult participants
- ISCAN RK-426 (60Hz)
- Results
 - Larger pupil size for ORC vs. SRC
 - Later peak in ORC vs. SRC (116 ms)
 - Pupil size is proportional to reading time and error rate (of probe questions)
- Interpretation
 - Processing intensity





Brightness illusions (Laeng & Endestad, 2012)

- Visual illusions with equiluminant images
 - Looking at images (32 trials) without a task: 500 ms blank screen, 4 s image
 - 15 adult participants (students)
 - Remote SMI eye tracker (500Hz)
- Results
 - Brightness illusions: Constriction
- Interpretation
 - The pupillary light reflex is influenced by cortical processing (see also Mathôt, 2018, p. 7), i.e. interpretation not mere perception





Violation of expectation (Jackson & Sirois, 2009)

- Impossible events: Change of colour of the train re-emerging
 - Videos of a train going through a tunnel, familiarisation with 2 colours
 - Familiarisation (6 videos) : 2 colours
 - Test (3 videos): impossible-novel, possible-novel, impossible-familiar, (possible-familiar = last familiarisation trial)
 - 21 children (mean age: 8.5 months) + 6 drop outs
 - Tobii x50 (50Hz) + looking times (LTs)

Results

- Larger dilations for impossible vs. possible only with novel
- LTs: longer impossible vs. possible for novel (reversed for familiar)
- No correlation of pupil size and LTs
- Interpretation
 - Pupil size = violation of expectation
 - Pupil size (dynamic) might be more sensitive than LTs (cumulative)







Violation of expectation (Gredebäck & Melinder, 2010)

- Rationality of action goals
 - 6 videos of a feeding event
 - Between-subject design: rational/irrational
 - 2 age groups: 6 and 12 months
 - 56 infants (14 in each age/condition) + 6 drop outs
 - Tobii 1750 (50Hz) + eye gaze (anticipations)
- Results
 - Pupil size increases after irrational goal (hand) and decreases after rational goal (both age groups)
 - Long analysis window (4 s) and "late" baseline (after spoon reaches goal)
 - Follow-up control condition
- Interpretation
 - Pupil size = violation of expectation in action goal interpretation, NOT a novelty response



Rational

Irrational



Violation of expectation (Krüger et al., 2019)

- Animals & animal sounds
 - Presentation: image (2 s), then sound (3 s), silence (3 s)
 - No task
 - 2 conditions: animal/sound match or mismatch
 - 20 trials (repetitions of 4 animals), 8 trials are relevant ~ 4 min in total
 - 279 participants in 7 age groups
 - Tobii T120 (60Hz)
- Results
 - Larger dilations for mismatches vs. matches
- Interpretation
 - Pupil size = violation of expectation
 - Suits all age groups while looking time measures do not









Sentence comprehension (Lum et al., 2017)

- Sentence picture matching task with easy and hard sentences
 - 12 easy (SV) and 12 hard (SVO) sentences
 - Presentation of 4 images (target, 3 foils), selection by mouse click
 - 36 children (18 TD and 18 with SLI)
 - Tobii T120 (120Hz) + eye gaze + picture selection responses
- Results
 - TD: larger pupils for hard vs. easy sentences
 - SLI: no differences in pupil size
 - Pupil size of SLI children = TD children for hard sentences
 - The effects align with the looking proportion
- Interpretation
 - Pupil size = attention allocation
 - SLI children need more attention to process the sentences



Panel A: Typically Developin



Speech categorisation (Hochmann & Papeo, 2014, Exp.2)

- Auditory oddball paradigm
 - Visual stimulus: animated cartoon
 - Auditory stimulus: sequences of 4 words
 - 100 trials (at least 24 for inclusion in the analysis)
 - 16 3-month olds and 14 six-month olds + 21 dropouts
 - Tobii T60 (60Hz)
- Result
 - Larger pupil for deviant vs. standard in 6mo 1000–1500 ms after onset of the 4th syllable
- Interpretation
 - Pupil size = expectation violation
 - Infants at 6 but not 3 months form categories based on the first syllable and build expectations







More slides

Pupil size in development (Brown et al., 2015)



Pupil size and change velocity is stable across 1-18 years (201 participants)



- Weak correlation between age and min/max size was weak (r = .19/r = .29,), this correlates with the size of the eye (r ~ .8)
- No differences between males and females for any of the pupil parameters
- Pupil size larger in white than African Americans (max: 5.56 vs 4.97 mm; min: 3.74 vs 3.40 mm)



References

References – Basics & Overviews



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