

Practical Exercise 5

Your MSc project is to figure out whether or not people know the difference between Conservative party members in the current government and the bad guys from Star Wars.

Download the lecture materials from Thursday 17th November and open up the **example_4.m** script. Make sure the “IntroToCogent” folder and the Cogent toolbox are added to your MATLAB path.

At the moment, this is the trial structure:



Imagine the dozy post-doc you’ve been assigned to supervise your project has given you this half completed Cogent 2000 script and asked you to make the following changes:

- 1) Change the background colour to black (it is grey right now)
- 2) Make the fixation cross bigger
- 3) Currently all parts of the trial appear on the screen for the same amount of time (e.g. `p.timetowait=1000;`). Make it so that the fixation cross is on the screen for 500ms, the image appears for 500ms and the blank screen after the image is displayed for 1500ms
- 4) Instead of the blank screen, make the fixation cross reappear for 1500ms
- 5) To make the experiment harder you want to “mask” the images. This is common in psychology experiments. In the folder there is a file called ‘noise.bmp’. Load this image into a new buffer and present it for 500ms *before and after* the main trial image
- 6) After the fixation cross present the words “Baddie or Tory?” to the screen, wait for 2000ms before continuing the trial
- 7) Image ‘c2.bmp’ is a picture of Boris Johnson. When this image appears, and *only this image*, you want to play the ‘boo.wav’ sound before he appears. Try to change the script to make this happen (*hint – look at ‘example_5.m’ for a clue)
- 8) Double the number of trials, making every image presented twice (*not as simple as it seems, think carefully about how the `p.stim_list` structure is created at the beginning of the script!)

>> Remember: every time the experiment starts up and then crashes you need to type **stop_cogent** to close any active cogent windows before you proceed.