Module 4 Assignment

Go to the Visual Search activity. Read the introduction to the experiment along with the general instructions. (Sometimes you will find it necessary to reread the instructions. Be sure of what you are being asked to do at any stage of the experiment before you proceed.)

Note: There are 4 parts to this experiment and you must complete all of them. In each part you should conduct 30 test trials using yourself as the research subject/participant (4 times 30 = 120 total trials).

While the results table keeps a record of each part of the experiment, it may be wise to write down the results after you complete each part “just in case,” so if something goes wrong, you would not have to start again from the beginning.

Begin part 1 by clicking on “Feature Search,” and then read the directions. After you are sure you have understood the instructions, click on the start button to start a trial. After you respond, you will notice that you will be able to see your results up to that point in time. (You can use this to keep a count of your number of trials in this part of the experiment up to this point in time.)

You will also note that after each trial, you are given the option of clicking on “disregard this trial” if you would not want to count the data from the previous trial. You should do this only when something unusual happens during a trial that significantly influenced your “reaction time” for that particular trial. (For example, someone walked into the room and distracted you during that trial so your reaction time was very, very different from your other trials.) Do not use this feature simply because you had a slower reaction time than you would have liked.

After completing at least 30 trials in this part, write down your results:

For Example: Feature Search:  5 items: 16 trials Avg RT 1745 ms / 17 items: 14 trials Avg RT 1471 ms / slope -23

Then, click on “Typical Feature Search Results.”

Follow those same steps with the other 3 parts of the experiment: Conjunction search, Serial Search, Dynamic Search, writing down your results and reading about the “typical results” after each one. (Don’t worry too much if your own results are not “typical” in every case. This is why experimenters will always try to run many different subjects in any experiment and will then total and average all their results together.)

For each of the 4 parts of the experiment, put into the Dropbox a summary of your results for that part and answers to the following questions:

1. Were your results similar to or different from the “typical results” for this type of visual search?
2. In what ways were they similar and/or in what ways were they different than the typical expected results?
3. Why are the typical results in this study expected to be the way they are? For example, ask and answer this question about part 1: Why are simple feature searches expected to have the same reaction time for the 5 item display as for the 17 item display?