

Breaking the law: Intended **rule violations** and their behavioural consequences

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Facts

- Name: AC/DC
- Profession: Rockstars
- Known for:
Sex, Drugs, Rock'n'Roll

But also:

Moral
Courage

Scientific
Misconduct

Workplace &
Safety



***I ain't gonna pay no
attention to your
rules!***

More Facts

- Social norms and rules trigger compliance (Asch, 1956) and obedience to authority (Milgram, 1963)
- Yet, we all violate rules at times (Reason, 1990)
- In the absence of any moral or legal consequences: „**Intentional errors**“

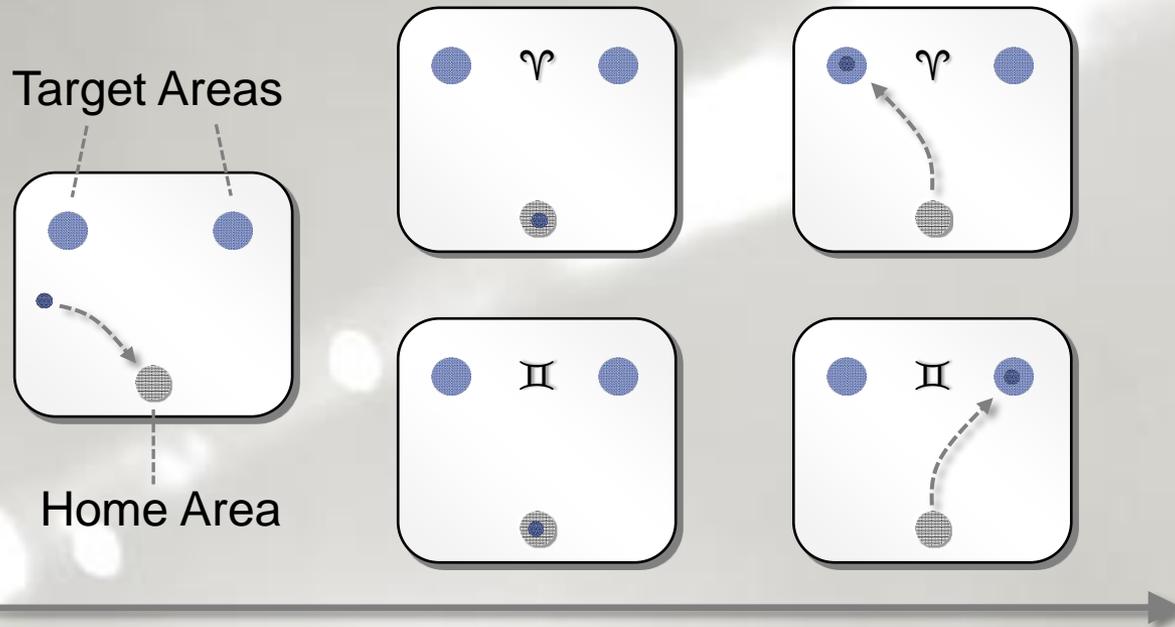
Question

Do intentional errors leave a fingerprint on the agent's behavior?



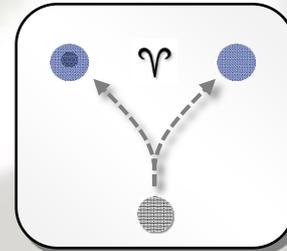
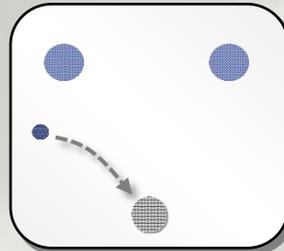
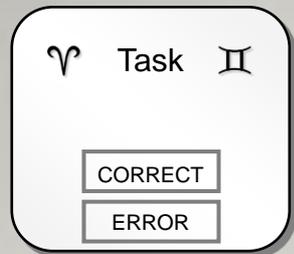
Method I

Simple classification task with mouse movements:

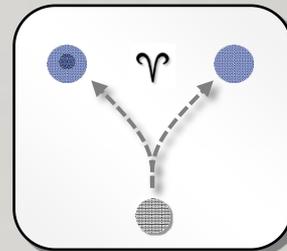
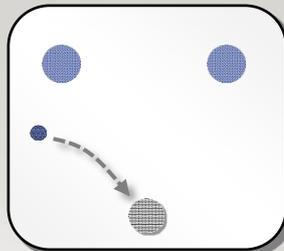
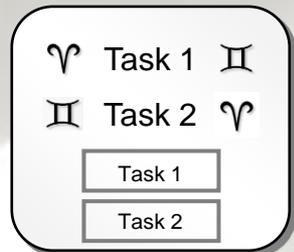


Method II

Simple classification task with mouse movements:

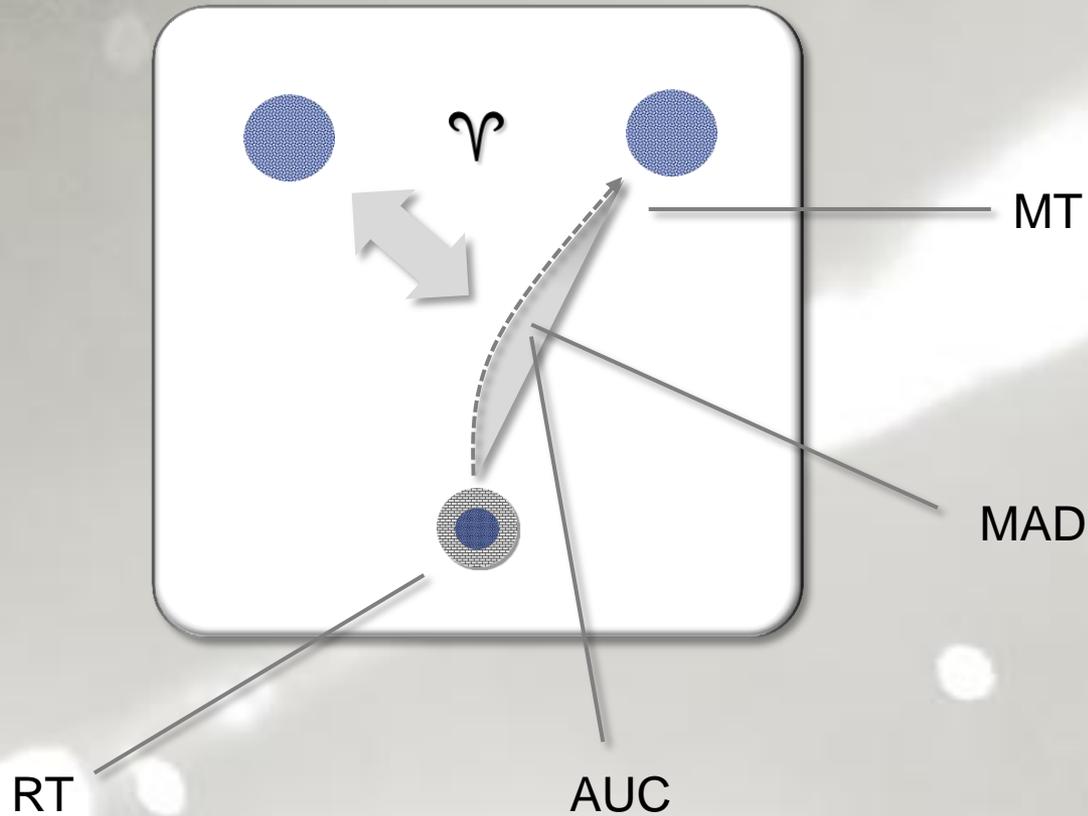


**Violation Group
(n = 20)**



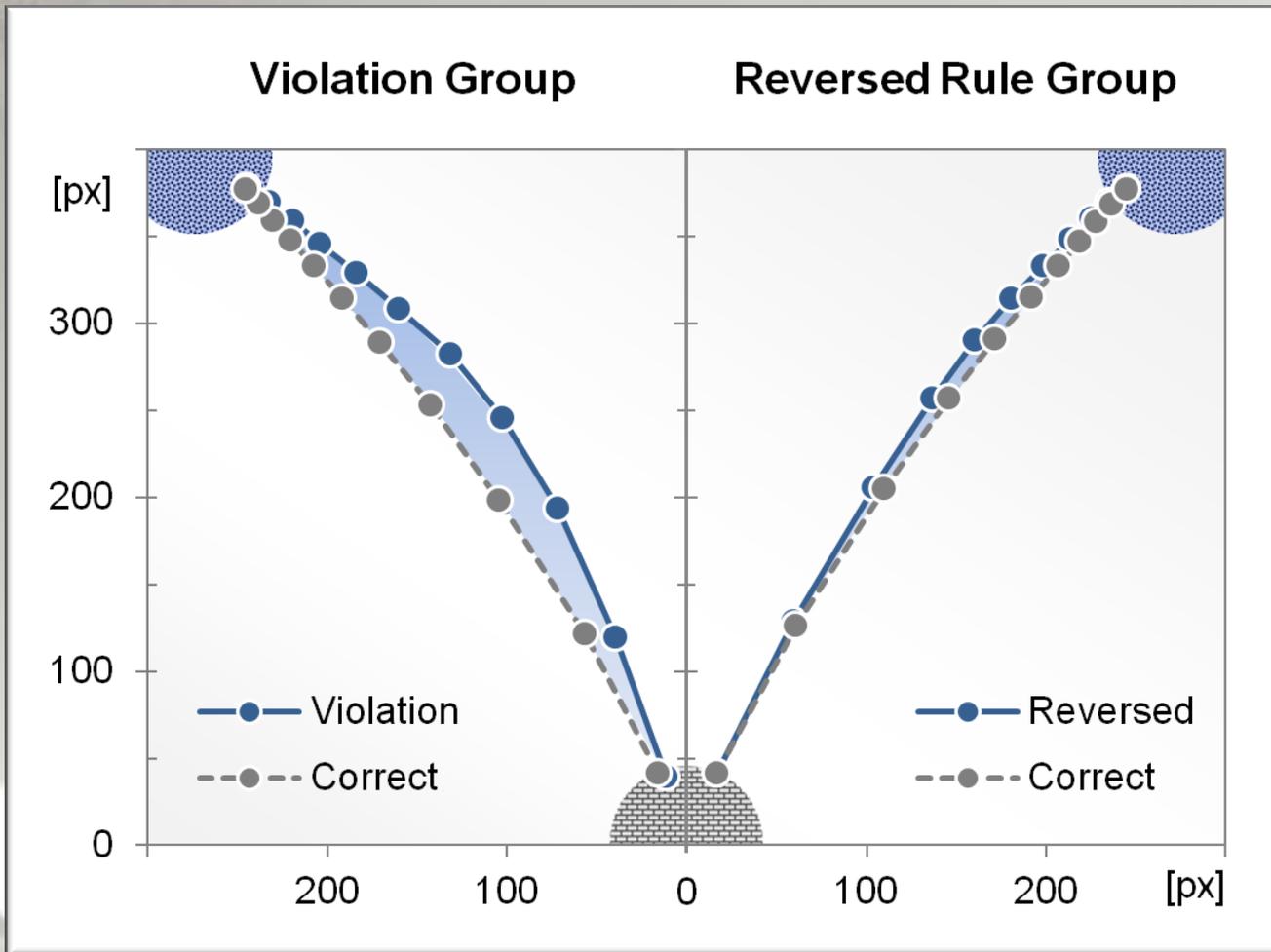
**Reversed Rule
Group (n = 20)**

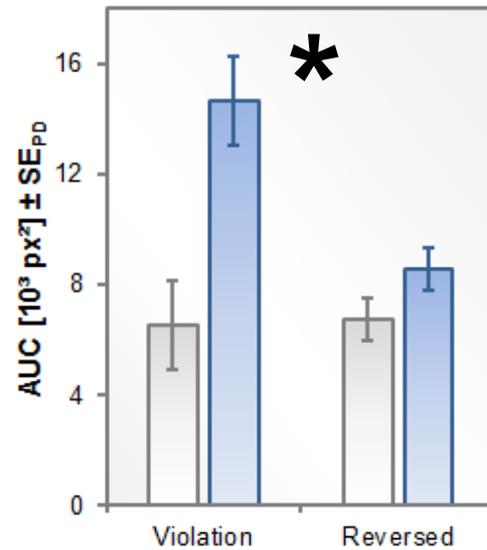
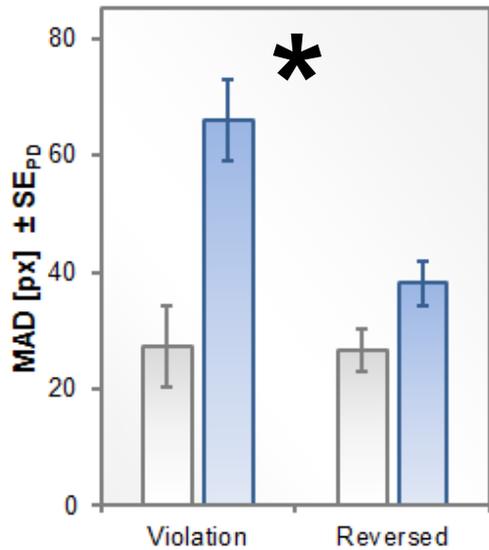
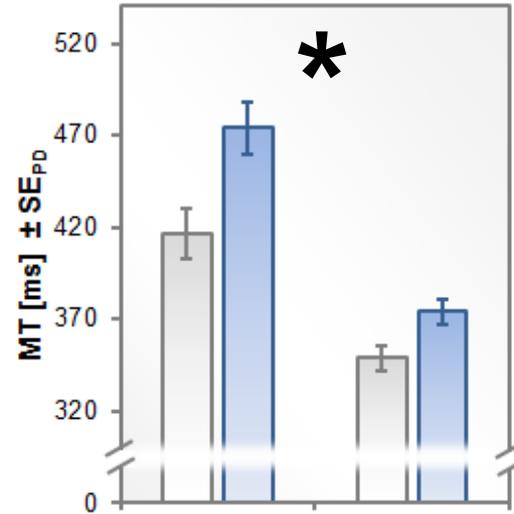
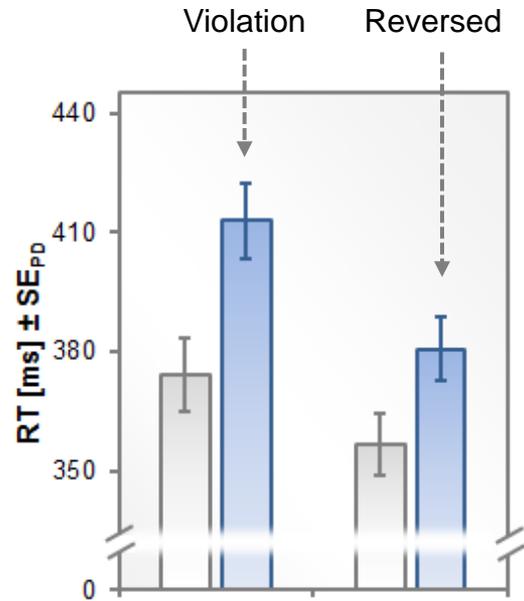
Method III



RT		Response Time
MT		Movement Time
AUC		Area Under Curve
MAD		Max. Abs. Distance

Results: Trajectories



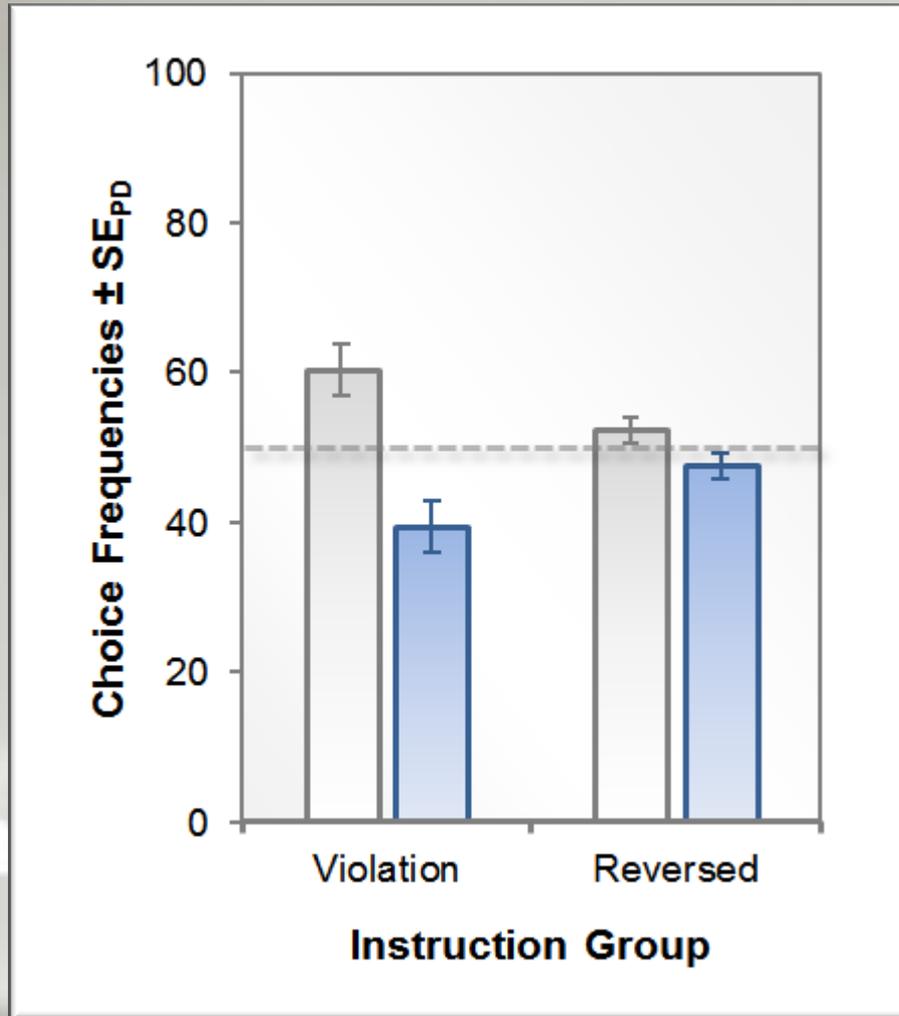


Instruction Group

Instruction Group



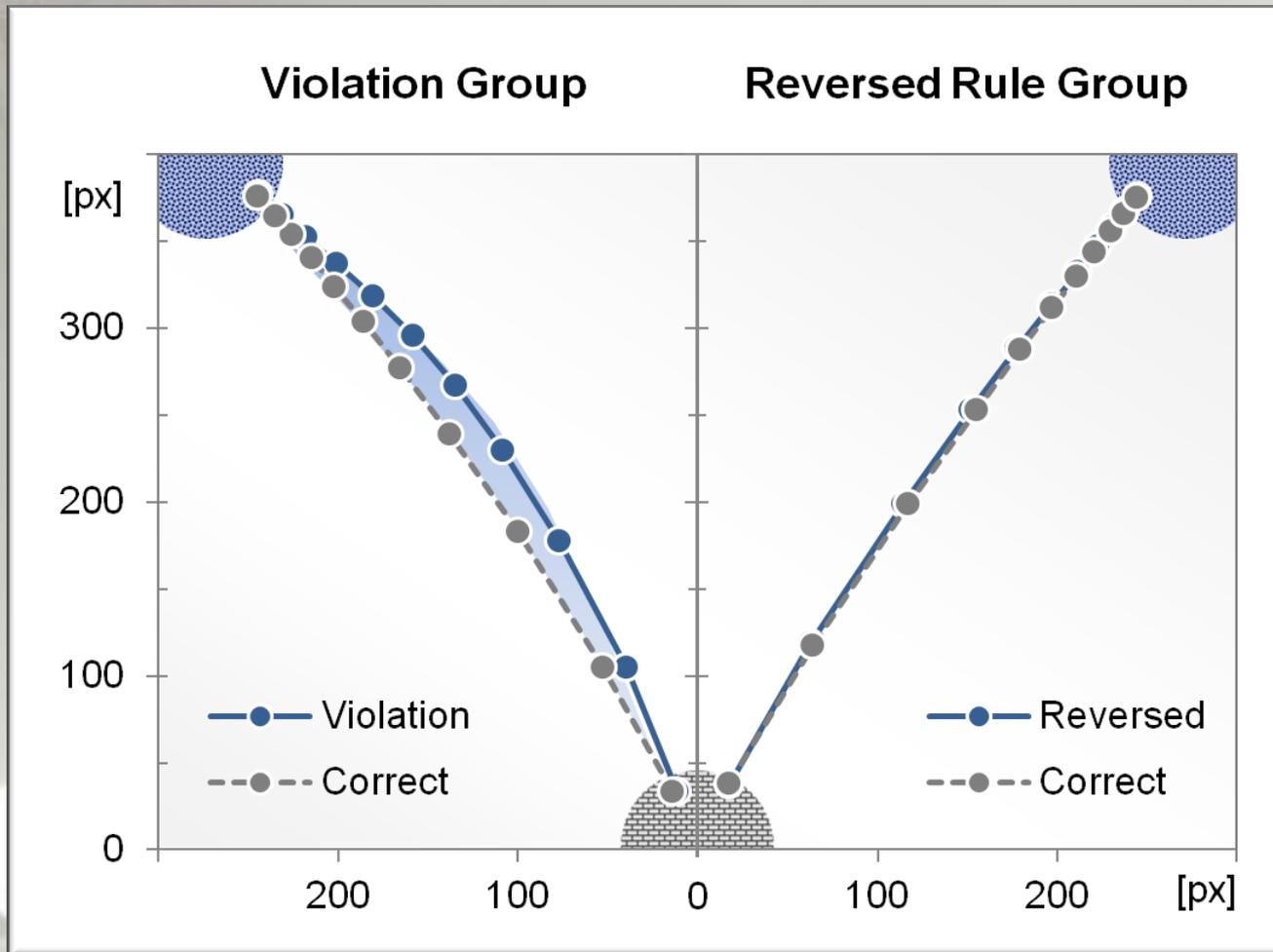
Results: Choices

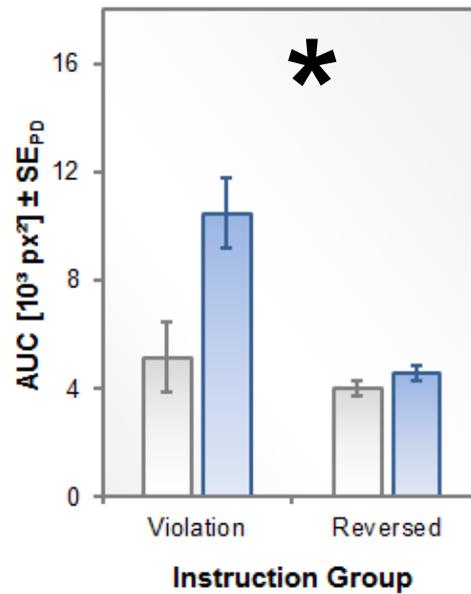
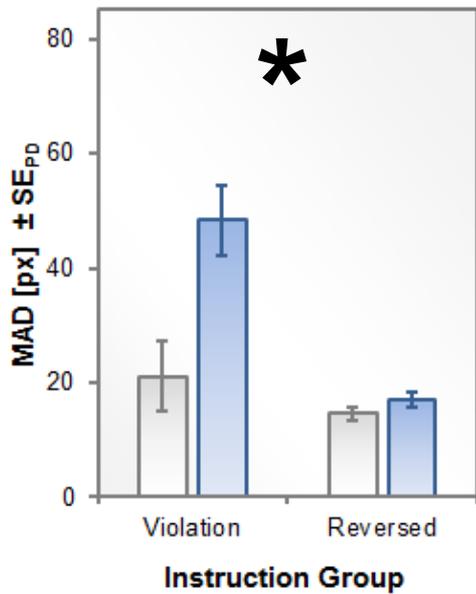
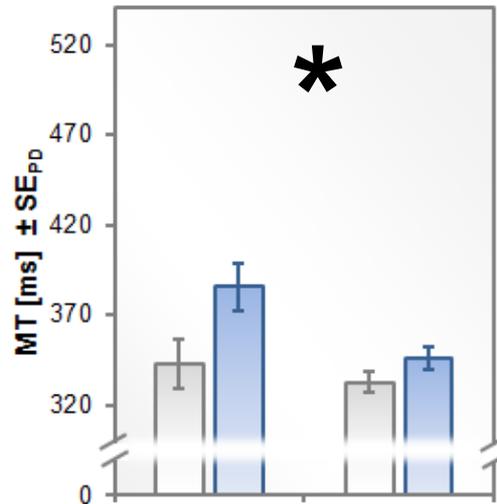
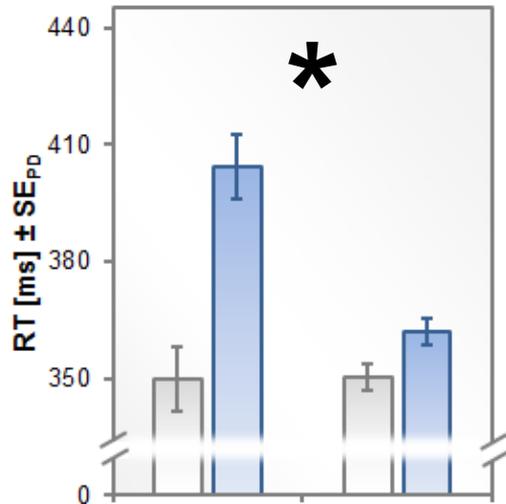


Control Experiment

- Task cue replaces the compliance prompt.
- Fixed proportions (33%) of rule violations for the violation group and Task 2 trials for the reversed rule group.

Control Experiment





Conclusion I

- Intended rule violations („intentional errors“) are indeed distinct from normal, rule-based behaviour.
- A rule representation cannot be suppressed *even if* there are no negative consequences for the agent at all.

Conclusion II (= Speculation)

- If rule violations are effortful and cause conflict...
- ...avoiding this conflict might be a simple but powerful mechanism that might explain why people do conform to rules by default.

***Violate all
the rules!***



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