

INSTRUCTIONS

The task consists of individual trials in which you have to decide whether you do a simple detection task: indicate with a button press in which side of the screen you see a circle. Before the circles appear on the screen you will see one image that tells you if you have to do this button press or not and if you may win or lose money on the trial.

There are 4 of these images and by trial and error you must find out which is the best strategy (to press the button or not to press the button) when you see the circle in order to win as much money as you can and avoid losing as much money as you can.

Some of the images predict that you will win money. Whether you win or not is probabilistic, but by figuring out the best strategy you can optimize the probability of winning £1. The same applies for the images that predict losses. Whether you lose or not is probabilistic, but by figuring out the best strategy you can minimize the probability of losing £1. For each image the best strategy may be to do the task but it may also be to hold your response.

The meaning of each image will be held constant throughout the task. However, the task is not easy, so I encourage exploration of all options.

On each trial you will see one image. You must not press any button at this point. After a short delay you will see the circle and then you must do the detection task (indicate in which side of the screen the circle is). After a short delay, you will see an upper arrow meaning that you win £1, a lower arrow meaning that you lose £1, and an horizontal bar meaning that you neither lose nor win. **Critically, in this task you may not win even after doing a correct response and you may lose even after doing a correct response.** However, for each image there is one strategy more advantageous than the other.

So for the winning conditions you may either get the arrow up or the horizontal bar. For the losing condition you may either get the arrow down or the horizontal bar. By doing the right thing when the circle appears (do the task or holding your response) you can make the most favorable outcome more frequent.

First, you will do 10 trials of the detection task and you will be informed when a response is correct and when it is incorrect or too late. Thereafter you will proceed with the proper task, which is divided in 4 parts. You can take a brake as long as you want between each part. All what you win will be counted and you will get paid cash at the end of the experiment with a maximum of £30 and a minimum of £15.