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Self-Reported Uncertainty in Decision-from-Experience Sampling





Variance Outcome Information about the outcomes HIGH 1 11 4 8 9 Box A contains only these ball types: 4 8 A CONTAINS ONLY THE BOX A CONTAINS ONLY TH

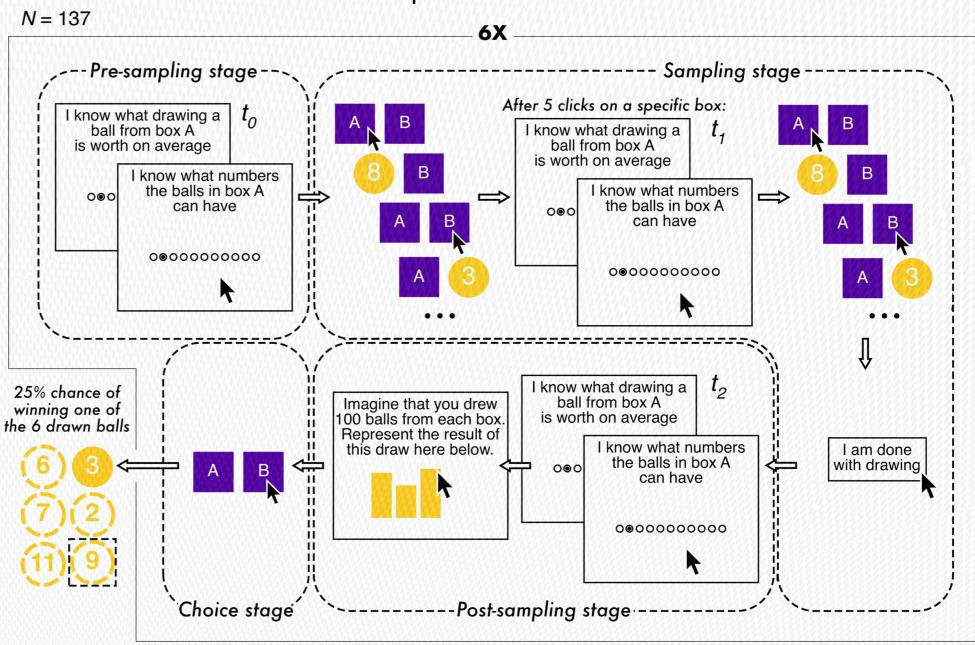
INTRODUCTION

We search for information to reduce our uncertainty before making choices^{1–4}. Currently, comparatively few studies³ have examined the role of uncertainty in driving the sampling process of decision-from-experience (DFE) tasks.

We set out to expand on past research and find out more about the role of self-reported estimation uncertainty and structural uncertainty in DFE tasks.

METHODS

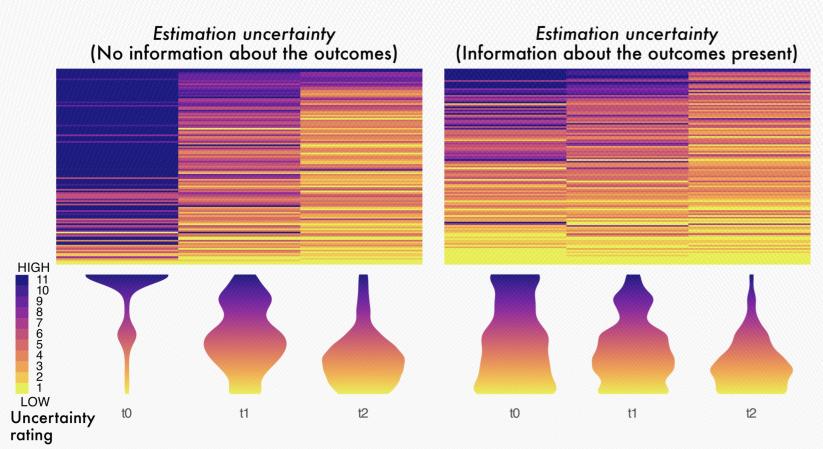


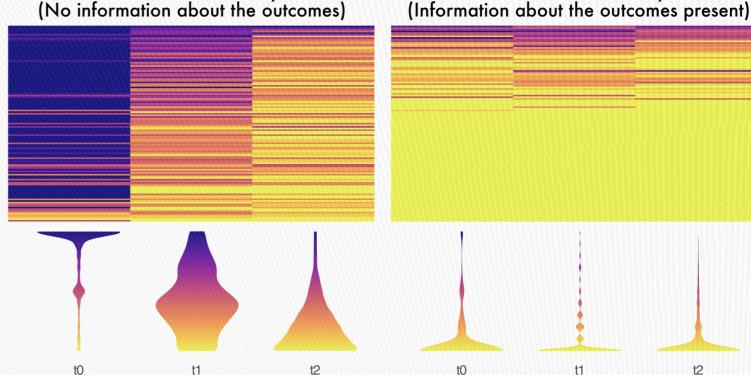


Structural uncertainty

RESULTS

Self-reported estimation and structural uncertainty: uncertainty is overall reduced with more sampling, but individual heterogeneity is high





Structural uncertainty

Higher estimation uncertainty is associated with more drawn samples



① Some uncertainty manipulations were successful:

Higher variance was associated with higher estimation uncertainty at t1

A higher number of outcomes was not associated with either estimation or structural uncertainty at t1

2 More uncertainty sometimes meant more sampling:

Higher reported estimation uncertainty at t1 was associated with more sampling

Higher reported structural uncertainty at t1 was not associated with more sampling

③ More sampling increased the accuracy of the representation of the distributions

DISCUSSION

Results in line with theories that see search/sampling driven by the need to reduce uncertainty.

However: structural uncertainty played a smaller role than expected.

Self-report measures of uncertainty: unexploited potential

NEXT STEPS

How much does uncertainty indirectly contribute to the description-experience gap?

How *reliable* are uncertainty self-report measures really?

Could we use *uncertainty manipulations* as a tool to affect the amount of information collected?

