





Max Wertheimer Minerva Center for Cognitive Processes and Human Performance

# The influence of advertising billboards on the attention allocation of drivers: The effect of design parameters

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### The influence of advertising billboards on driving

- The question about the effect of advertising billboards on driving is explored since 1950 (Rusch, 1951).
- Literature review showed that
  - > Advertising billboards can cause driver's distraction.
  - > Accidents rate was higher in the vicinity of billboards.







### The influence of advertising billboards on driving

- A previous study suggested that billboards design parameters might affect the level of driver's distraction.
- Understanding these effects is very important because it might help to set up regulation restricting advertising billboards.

### The current study

 Aim: to test the effect of design parameters of billboards on driver's attention allocation.









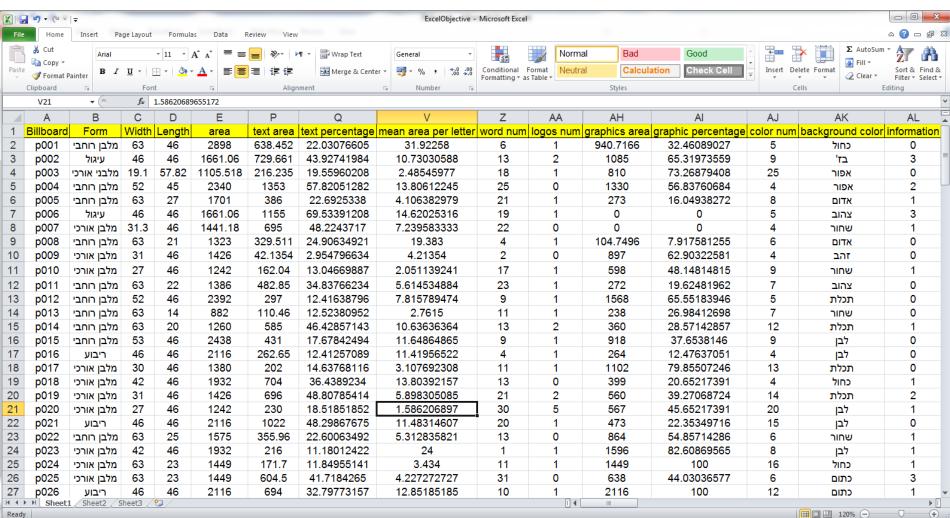
### Phase 1 – Establishing billboard's data

 Using real billboards we established two kinds of classification of the design parameters:

### 1. Objective

Each billboard was classified according to:

- Graphics percentage
- Text percentage
- Text size
- Number of colors
- **❖** Background color
- **❖** Number of logos
- Number of informative elements.























### Phase 1 - Establishing billboard's data

### 2. Subjective

8 participants scored each billboard on a scale between 1-5 on the following statements:

- The photo is colorful
- The contrast is high
- There is high amount of text
- The photo attracts attention
- I want to keep looking or examining the details
- The message can be understood with a glance
- It will be easy to remember the details
- **❖** The photo is full of details

# Phase 1 - Establishing billboard's data



- <u>Aim:</u> To test whether the various design parameters of billboard influence the performance of two tasks concurrently employed:
  - Tracking task (=motor part of driving)
  - Color change identification task (=traffic light detection)
- <u>Participants:</u> 20 students.



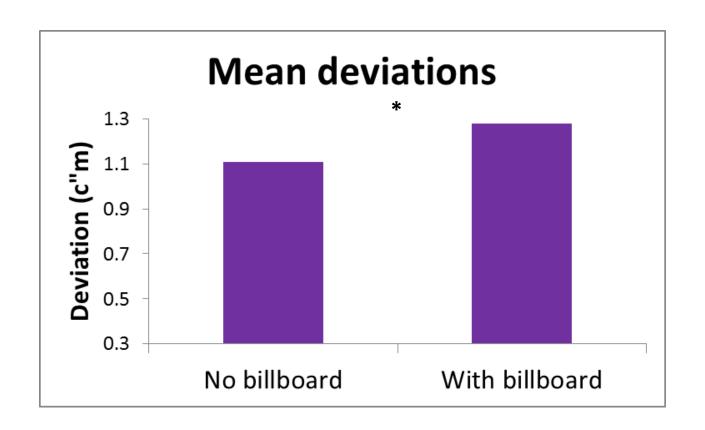




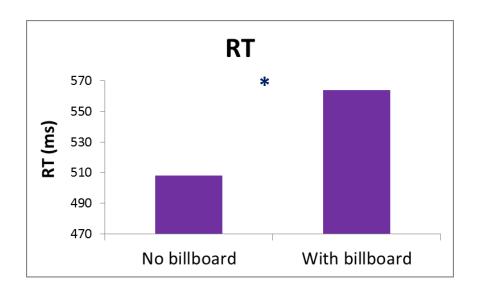


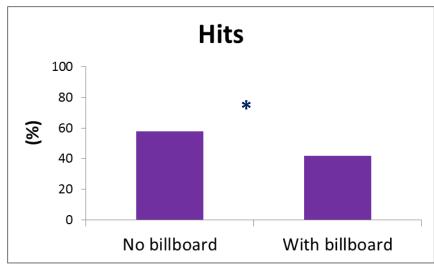


Results: Tracking measurement (deviation)



• Results: Color change detection measurement





Results: Clustering analysis

Clustering analysis was performed on all billboards, yielding 5 different clusters, according to the following design parameters:

- > Text percentage
- Graphics percentage
- Number of letters (large, medium, small)
- **➤** Number of logos
- > Number of colors
- > Number of informative elements

- <u>Results:</u> Clustering analysis ANOVAs
   One-way ANOVAs with these 5 clusters as a factor were performed.
  - ➤ <u>Cluster 5</u> was found to deteriorate the performance in the tracking task, but did not affect the color change detection task.
  - ➤ <u>Cluster 4</u> was found to deteriorate the performance in the color change detection task, but did not affect the tracking task .
  - ➤ Cluster 3 was found to be the least interfering cluster in both tasks.

### Cluster 5:

- \* Many letters (especially large and small), \* Many logos,
- \* Many colors (though not a lot of graphics elements),
- \* Many informative elements



### **≻** Cluster 4:

- \* Low text percentage, \* High graphics percentage, \* Many colors,
- \* Not many informative elements



### Cluster 3:

- \* Medium text percentage, \* If text mostly large letters,
- \* Low graphics percentage, \* Not many colors,
- \* Not many informative elements



### • Discussion:

- ➤ The presence of billboards deteriorated the performance of the participants in both concurrent tasks.
- ➤ Billboards of cluster 5 interfered with the tracking task but not with the color change detection task.
- ➤ Billboards of cluster 4 interfered with the color change detection task but not with the tracking task.
- ➤ Billboards of cluster 3 did not interfere with both color change detection and tracking tasks.

### Conclusions:

- Billboards that contain a large amount of text, many details and many colors might interfere with the motor part of driving.
- ➤ Billboards that contain a large amount of graphics and many colors might interfere with the cognitive part of driving (e.g., traffic light detection).
- > Billboards that contain small amount of text, colors and graphics might be the least interfering, hence quite safe.

## Phase 3 – Simulator experiment

 The various clusters we identified will be tested in more realistic driving setting – in our driving simulator.







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# Thank you for your attention