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# Measuring achievement goals : A methodological contribution based on mousetracking data

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## Introduction

Developing and sustaining students' motivation to learn represents an essential educational challenge for teachers, parents, and policy-makers alike, because this motivation should foster learning and achievement. [1]

Although it has been assumed that the motivation to learn – or mastery (approach) goal endorsement – and to perform better than others – or performance (approach) goal endorsement - predicts learning and achievement, findings are still inconsistent in the literature. One explanation may be related to response biases, and more specifically social desirability bias.

The aim of this research was to develop an implicit measure of mastery and performance goals by recording computer mouse movements. Mouse-tracking allows measuring participants' hand movements, which reflect underlying cognitive processes, including neural competition involved in decision making dynamics. [2]

In this study, Area Under the Curve (AUC) was used to measure implicit achievement goals. Convergent validity between the implicit measure and achievement goals' explicit, self-reported equivalent measures was tested.

# Method studies 1 & 2

Participants. Study 1: 142 psychology students (Mage = 20.3, SD = 3.4) Study 2: 133 psychology students (Mage = 20.9, SD = 2.78)

- 1) Pre-test: 10 words for performance goals (COMPETITION) and 10 for mastery goals (COMPREHENSION),  $\chi^2$  (p < .05).
- 2) Implicit measure (Imp).

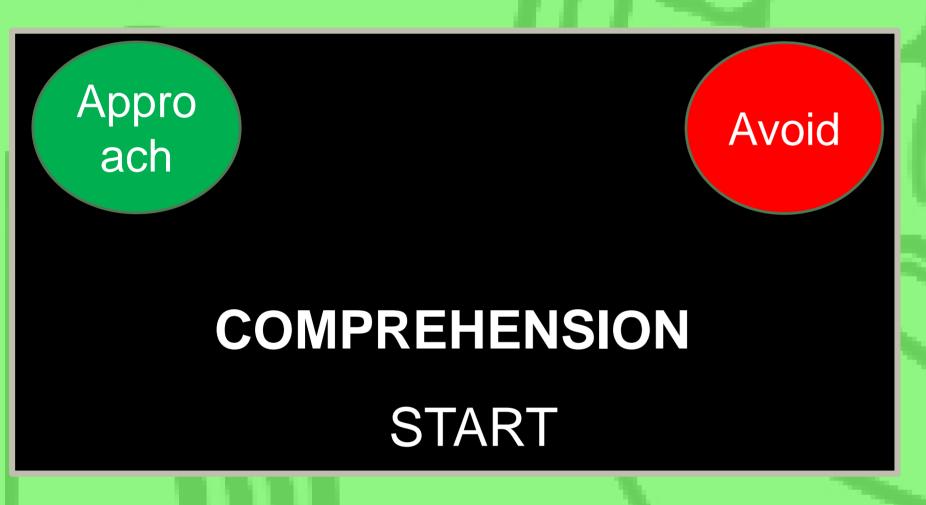


Figure 1. Sample item

Figure 2. Sample illustration of the AUC



3) Self report measure (Exp). 2x2 scale of achievement goals Elliot & Murayama (2008)

My goal is to learn as much as possible in my studies.

 -1
 -3
 -4
 -5
 -7

		Results				
Variables	Mastery- Implicit	Mastery- Explicit	Performance- Explicit	Performance- Implicit	AUC_Performance	AUC_Mastery
Mastery_Implicit	_	.14	.08	.05	.15	26**
Mastery_Explicit	.22*	-	.13	.09	.01	11
Performance_Explicit	.03	.26*	_	.50*	36**	23*
Performance_Implicit	.17	.17	.54**		42**	44**
AUC_Performance	.03	08	19*	38**	· -	.34**
AUC_Mastery	24*	24*	.04	13	.50	/ - /

Table 1. Values above the diagonal refer to the Study 1 / values below the diagonal refer to Study 2. \* indicate significant correlations. p < .05 \*. p < .001 \*\*.

### Discussion

Implicit measure (AUC) Measures partially converge

Self report measure

Implicit indicators
appear to partially
converge with explicit
measure but not
systematically in the 2
studies for each goal



MT-based indicators are promising for achievement-goal research, but more empirical work is needed to consolidate current findings