

Introduction

As a stimulus, handwriting is a complex visual pattern that is individualistic to the writer, much like faces are complex patterns that contain an identity. Despite its ubiquity, handwriting has not received very much research attention in the world of perceptual science. Our goal is to investigate observers' sensitivity to handwriting differences between authors using psychophysical techniques.

Methods

Firstly, we will measure whether observers are sensitive to differences in gender within handwriting. If so, we will further investigate if those differences extend to uppercase and lowercase samples as well as upright and inverted samples.



(1) Uppercase word in an upright position

(3) Uppercase word in an inverted position



(2) Lowercase word in an upright position

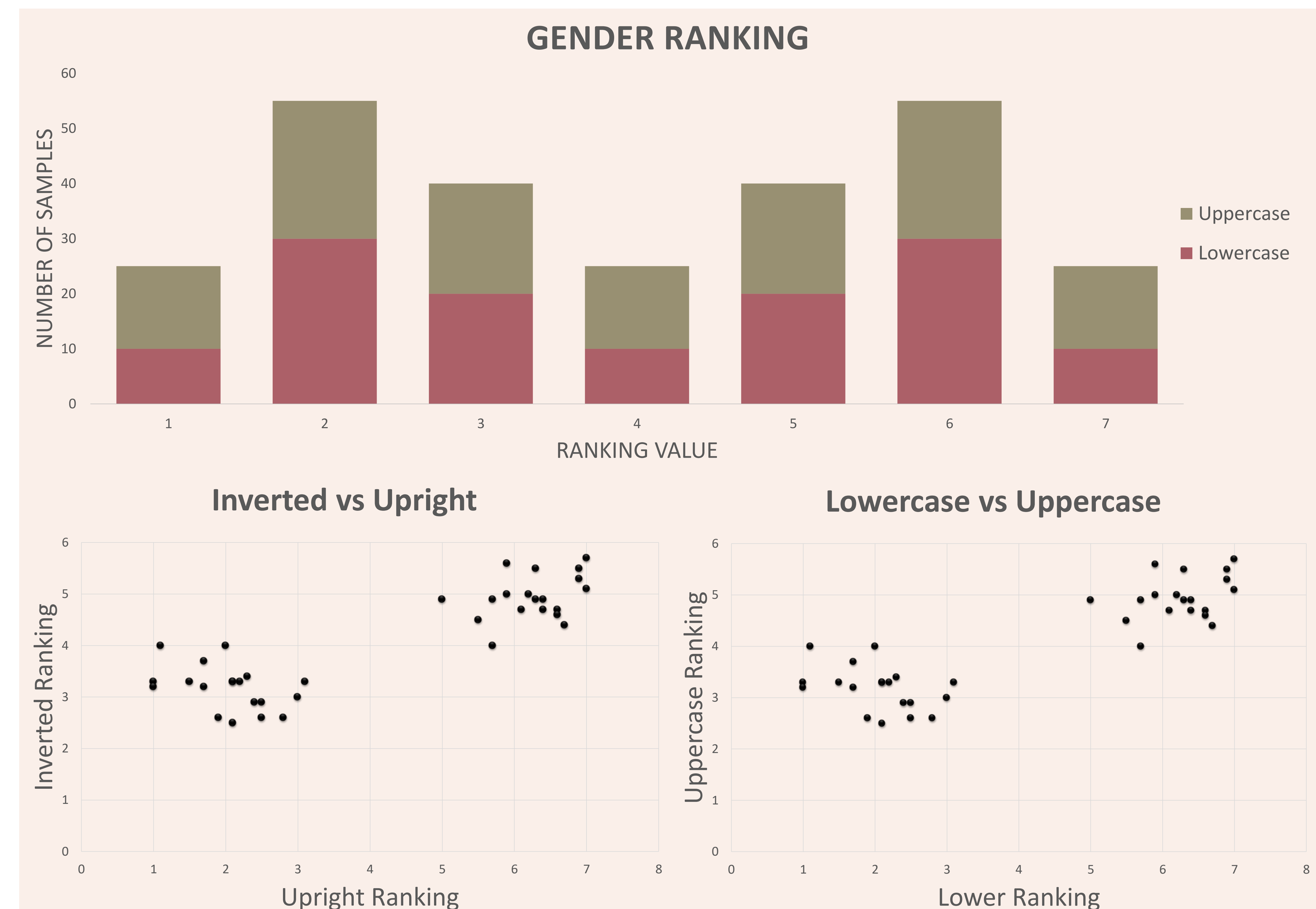


(4) Lowercase word in an inverted position

Observers will be placed in all 4 conditions, where stimuli will be presented at random through Qualtrics. In each condition, observers will rank the stimulus ranging from 1 (definitely female), 2 (likely female), 3 (maybe female), 4 (unsure), 5 (maybe male), 6 (likely male), or 7 (definitely male).

Expected Results

We expect to see a difference in observers' sensitivity in all 4 conditions. Observers are expected to have a greater sensitivity to stimuli in the upright condition compared to the inverted condition, as well as to stimuli in the lowercase condition compared to the uppercase condition.



Future Research

For future direction, we hope to conduct other forms of manipulation to individual letters of handwriting to study individuality within the handwriting stimuli.

