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THE EFFECTS OF CLUMPING ON SELECTIVE ATTENTION IN VISUAL SEARCH

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In studies of attention in visual search, older adults consistently perform more poorly than young adults. In most visual attention computer tasks, simple, conjunction, and unconfounded trials are presented randomly. We hypothesize that older adults are slower than young adults at changing their search strategies to match each type of trial. If this is the case, clumping the trials together so that the subject sees a series of each type of trial should allow the older adults to perfect their search strategies, giving them reaction times similar to those of young adults. In this experiment, 20 young adults (age 18-25) and 20 older adults (age 65 and up) will be asked to perform a clumped computer search task. These results will then be compared to the results of an unclumped study performed last year. The results will be presented.