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Authors

Jiuyang, Bai

Schloesser, Daniel

Scott, Jordan J

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Facilitating interpersonal action coordination in a movement control task

Jiuyang Bai

Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island, United States

Schloesser Daniel

University of California, Merced, Merced, California, United States

J. Scott Jordan

Illinois State University, Normal, Illinois, United States

Abstract

The present experiment examined how individuals and dyads coordinate action in a movement control task either with or without additional action effects. Participants pressed computer keys to keep a moving dot stimulus within a rectangle by certain key-movement mapping. Pressing a key could also cause visual, auditory, or no effect. Participants completed the task either alone or with a partner they could neither see nor hear. The results showed that individuals had better performance and longer key-press than dyads. The performance of dyads was improved by auditory effects, whereas the performance of individuals was not influenced by any additional action effect. In a subsequent STROOP-like task, participants were asked to press a computer key they used in the movement control task while being primed by either visual or auditory effects. The results revealed an association between auditory effects and correspondent key, whereas no such association was found for visual effects.