

Making a LLAMA into an ALPACAA: A revised attempt at assessing aptitude

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Outline

- Background on Aptitude and LLAMA tests
- Methodology: how we've revised the tests
- Results & Discussion
- Conclusion





Background: Aptitude & LLAMA tests

What is Language Learning Aptitude



"the amount of time a student needs to learn a given task, unit of instruction, or curriculum to an acceptable criterion of mastery under optimal conditions of instruction and student motivation." (Carroll 1990 p. 26)

 A 'knack for learning languages'.
 A cognitive variable - something you are born with.

- What does it mean?
- aptitude is different from other cognitive systems, including intelligence
- aptitude is stable (doesn't change)
- aptitude is made up of different components

Li (2015) Construct validity: meta analysis of 66 studies.



- Aptitude is independent of other individual differences, e.g. motivation.
- executive working memory (EWM) more strongly associated with aptitude than phonological short-term memory (PSTM).
 - BUT Linck et al (2013): relevance of PSTM to advanced learners.
- strong predictor of general proficiency but not vocabulary learning or L2 writing.
- different components predicted different aspects of learning.
- negative correlation between anxiety and aptitude.
 - Sparks & Patton (2013): anxiety as result not cause of low aptitude
- Granena (2013): LLAMA tests measure 2 different constructs:
 - Implicit (sound recognition task) & explicit (other three tasks)

WM as L2 aptitude?



- Wen (2016, p. 142)
- * "to what extent [can] PWM... complement (or even replace) the phonetic coding ability of language aptitude and, similarly, to what extent EWM can outperform the language analytical ability of language aptitude."
- "premature... to claim that WM 'replaces' L2 aptitude given our currently limited knowledge of their relationship and relatively scare empirical evidence"
- ❖ PWM = language learning device
- **❖** EWM = language processes

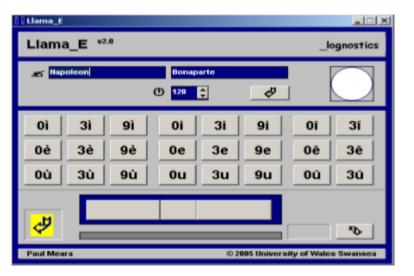
Swansea LLAMA tests (Meara, 2005)

www.lognostics.co.uk/tools/llama

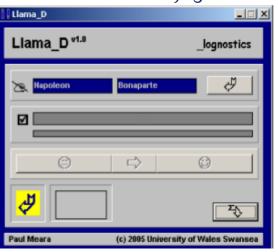
- Free, loosely based on MLAT
- LLAMA B = vocabulary measure
- LLAMA D = sound recognition (implicit learning)
- LLAMA E = sound-symbol correspondence
- LLAMA F = grammatical inferencing
- Has not been fully validated.















Purpose/ Research questions

Purpose/ Research questions

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- This study has three purposes:
- to remedy some of the test flaws.
- to revise the scoring method of the LLAMA test
- to examine if the revised tests overlap with working memory measures

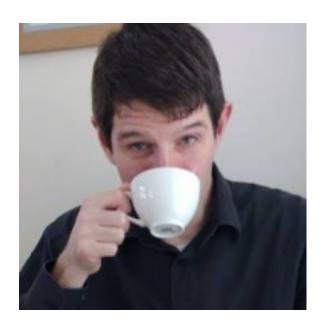
- Research Questions:
- What is the impact of different scoring mechanisms on the distribution of ALPACAA scores?
- Do all the items discriminate between participants?
- What is the relationship between the new scoring method and WM, and
- What impact do different background variables have on the ALPACAA scores (not today)

Methodology

- Re-programmed the LLAMA tests into OpenSesame – called ALPACAA
- Changed order of administration:
 - D then B, E, F
 - Kept: 2 mins learning B & E, 5 mins learning F
- Fixed errors in original.
- No feedback to participant during test.
- End: given average RT and total correct.
- Clearer instructions (English)
- Can start test early







• ALPACAA_1 (sound recognition): Pre-listening instructions



Welcome to Part 2 of the experiment.

There are four sections within this part. This is the first section.

Please put on your headphones.

- You will hear a series of words in another language.
- All you have to do is listen to the words.

Press any key when you are ready.

ALPACAA_1 (sound recognition): Post listening instructions

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- Thank you.
- You will now hear another series of words.
- Some of them are the same as the words you have just heard. Others are not.
- After each word, you will be asked if you have heard the word before.
- If you have heard the word before, press Y.
- If you have not heard the word before, press N.
- Only respond when you see the question.
- Press spacebar to continue.

ALPACAA_2 (vocabulary) learning













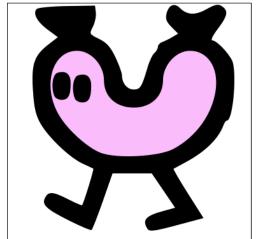












1 min and 48 sec left

CHUEN





















Start test

ALPACAA_2 (vocabulary) test phase







































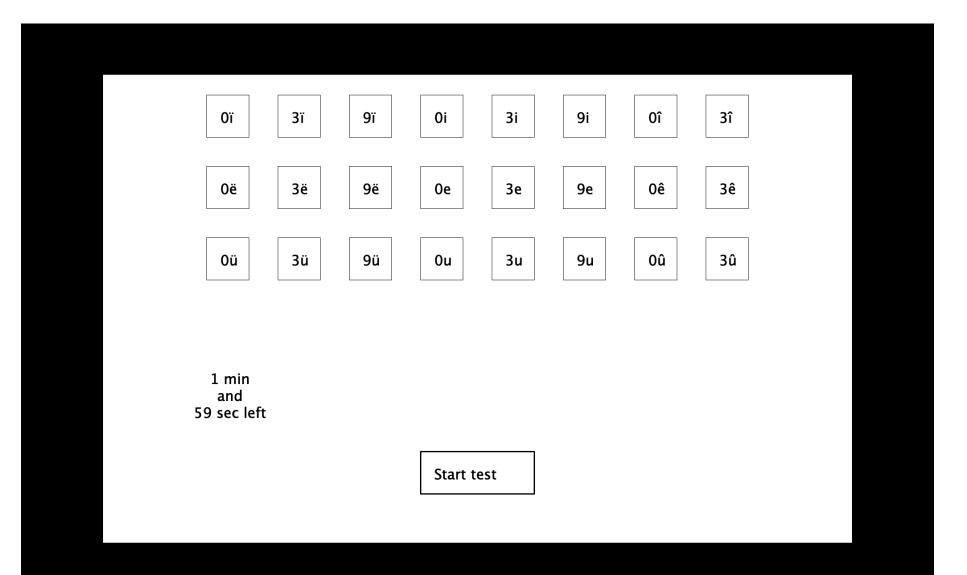






ALPACAA_3 (sound-symbol) learning





ALPACAA_3 (sound-symbol) test instructions



In this section, you will hear a new sound and be asked which symbol it matches.

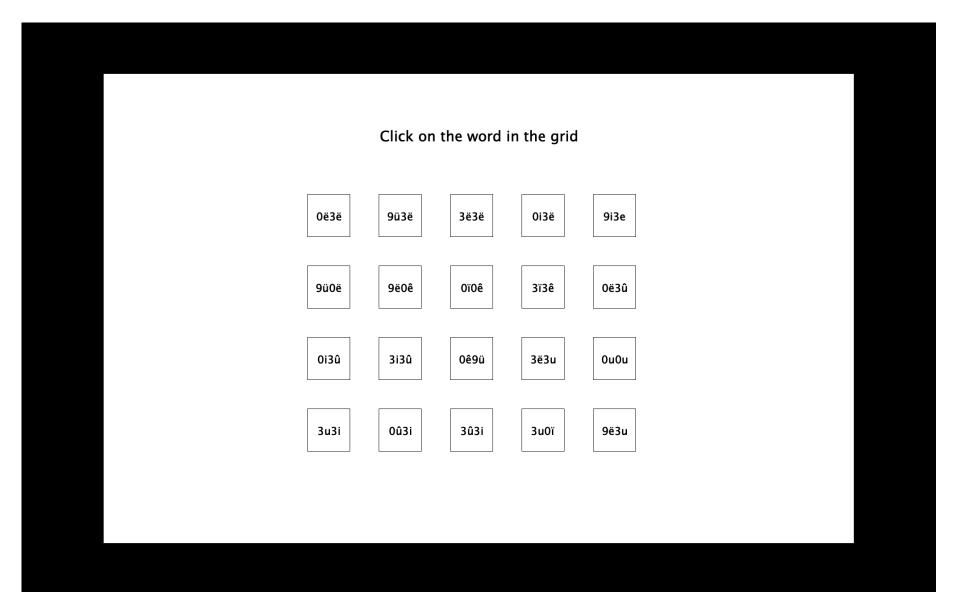
These new sounds are a combination of two sounds that you have just learnt.

You should use the mouse to click on the symbol that matches the sound.

Press spacebar to continue.

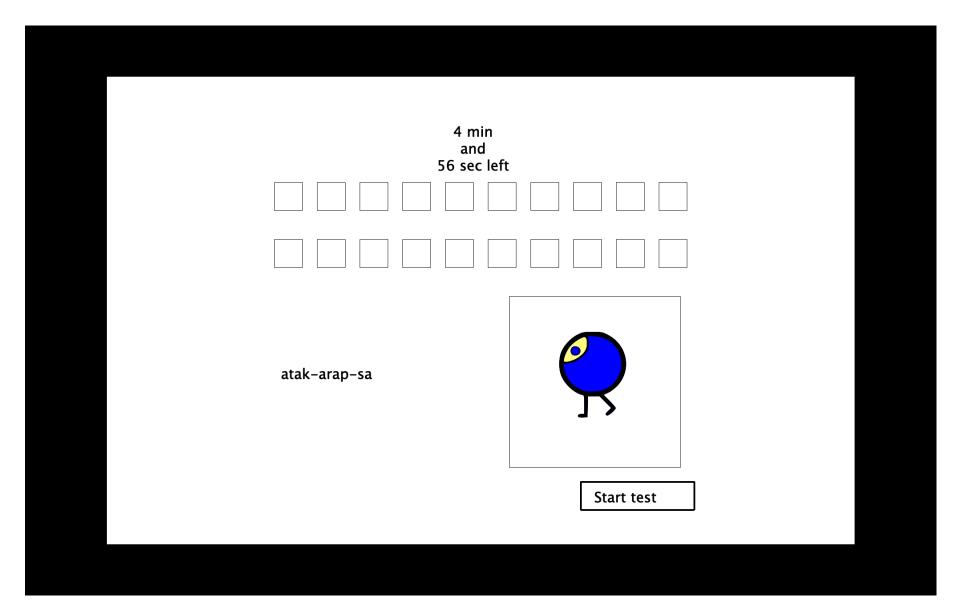
ALPACAA_3 (sound-symbol) test layout





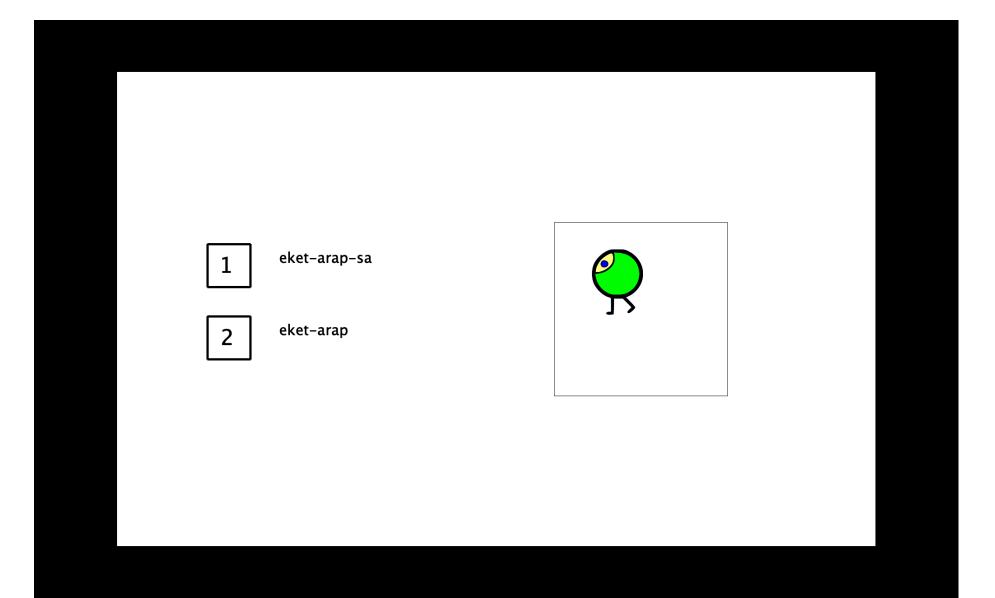
ALPACAA_4 (grammatical inferencing) learning





ALPACAA_4 (grammatical inferencing) test





Methodology





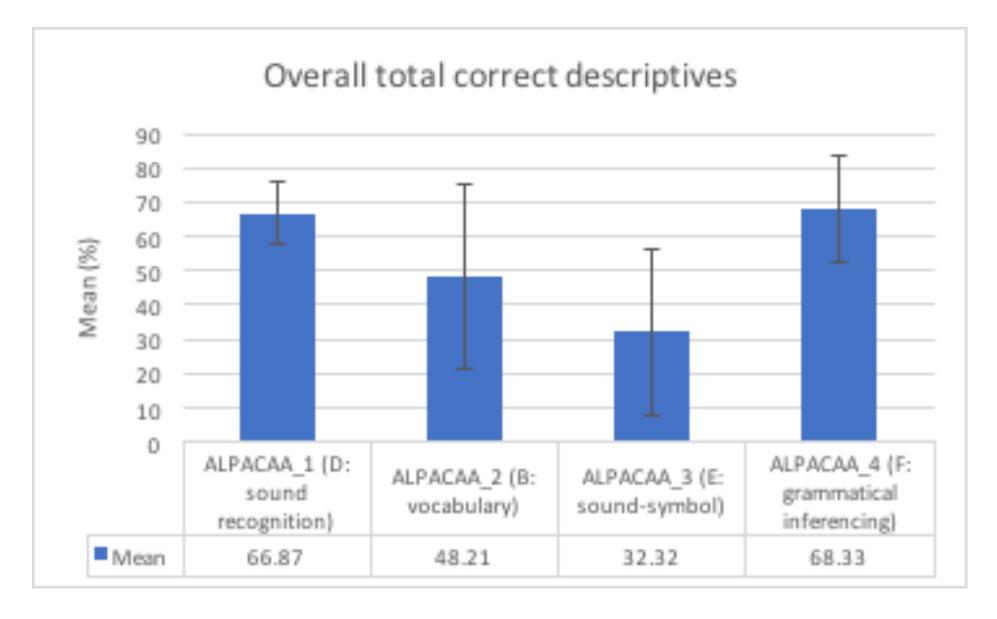
- Administered to 123 participants
- Age 17-55, (M=23.5, S.D.=5.576)
- Male = 56, Female = 67
- L1 English speakers = 77
- Bilingual L1 English speakers = 7
- L2 English speakers = 39
- Also administered Stroop, Flanker and auditory Digits backwards.
- Collected by BA dissertation students (L-R, Dafydd, Megan, Amy)



RQ1:

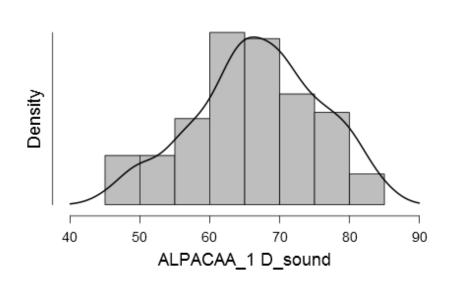
What is the impact of different scoring mechanisms on the distribution of ALPACAA scores?

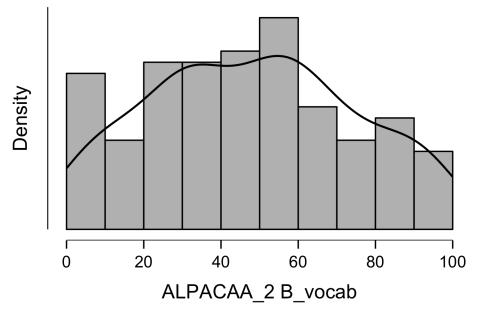
Overall descriptive: total correct – n=123



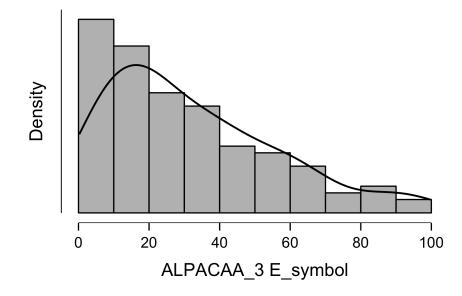


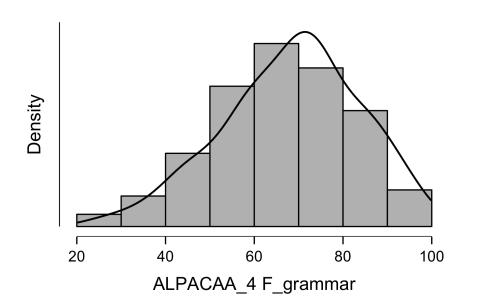
• Distribution of scores in tests (total correct)











Adjusting for guessing



- Step 1
- Adjusted for not doing learning phase (20 items)
- Criteria must click on each item at least once.
- ALPACAA_2 (vocab): 6 removed n=117
- ALPACAA_3 (sound/symbol): 3 removed, n=120
- ALPACAA_4 (grammatical inferencing): 3 removed, n=120

- Step 2: Applied LLAMA penalties
- LLAMA D, E, F lose 1 mark (5%)
 for incorrect answer (binary choice)
- ALPACAA_1 (D)
 - M=33.74, S.D=17.86
 - Mean was 68.67
 - Range: -10 70
- ALPACAA_4 (F)
 - M=36.50, S.D=31.35
 - Mean was 68.33
 - Range: -50 100

What about adjusting for guessing? Using RTs



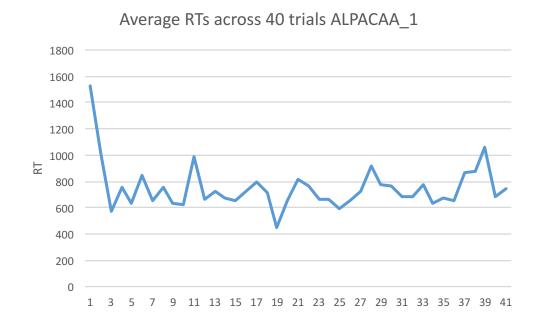
- Have RTs for all test items for all participants...
- Excluded any RTs faster than 200ms.
- ALPACAA_1_D: In test phase, heard sound then question prompt then click.
 - More than 200ms after sound so no exclusions.
- ALPACAA_2_B: Three items identified (out of 117*20 = 2340)
 - Two were correct: removed.
- ALPACAA_3_E: No items
- ALPACAA_4_F: Four items identified (out of 120*20=2400)
 - Two were correct: removed.

As they have to navigate with mouse then 200ms not an appropriate cut off?

Discussion



- Participants use the learning phase (12/369)
- Few react within 200ms (7/7140)
- Penalising doesn't change distribution but lowers mean (a lot).
- Lots more could be done with RT data.
- Very slow on first question but then flatten.
- Exclude items based on +/- 2 S.D.'s.





RQ2:

Do all the items discriminate between participants?

Internal reliability (Cronbach's alpha)



| | n | Cronbach's α | Average inter item correlation | 95% CI Lower | 95% CI Higher |
|---|-----|--------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| ALPACAA_1 (sound recognition) all | 123 | 0.385 | 0.017 | 0.329 | 0.438 |
| ALPACAA_1 (sound recognition) correct | 123 | 0.544 | 0.502 | 0.502 | 0.584 |
| ALPACAA_2 (vocabulary) | 117 | 0.850 | 0.227 | 0.836 | 0.863 |
| ALPACAA_3 (sound/symbol) | 120 | 0.883 | 0.272 | 0.872 | 0.893 |
| ALPACAA_4 (grammatical inferencing) | 120 | 0.617 | 0.079 | 0.581 | 0.650 |

ALPACAA_1 Item Reliability Statistics (all items)

| | | | item-rest | If item dropped | | | | |
|-----------|-------|-------|-------------|-----------------|-----------|-------|-------|-----|
| | mean | sd | correlation | Cronbach's α | | | | |
| latd11-n | 0.463 | 0.501 | -0.137 | 0.417 | | | مما | ite |
| latd12-n | 0.545 | 0.500 | -0.076 | 0.406 | | mean | sd | cor |
| latd03-y1 | 0.894 | 0.309 | 0.183 | 0.368 | latd04-y2 | 0.756 | 0.431 | |
| latd13-n | 0.236 | 0.426 | -0.048 | 0.398 | latd06-y2 | 0.732 | 0.445 | |
| latd08-y1 | 0.301 | 0.460 | 0.161 | 0.365 | latd07-y2 | 0.748 | 0.436 | |
| latd14-n | 0.683 | 0.467 | 0.160 | 0.365 | latd23-n | 0.829 | 0.378 | |
| latd15-n | 0.642 | 0.481 | 0.003 | 0.392 | latd08-y2 | 0.382 | 0.488 | |
| latd05-y1 | 0.813 | 0.391 | 0.015 | 0.388 | latd10-y2 | 0.659 | 0.476 | |
| latd04-y1 | 0.691 | 0.464 | 0.243 | 0.350 | latd24-n | 0.667 | 0.473 | |
| latd06-y1 | 0.780 | 0.416 | 0.040 | 0.385 | latd25-n | 0.740 | 0.441 | |
| latd16v-n | 0.740 | 0.441 | 0.092 | 0.377 | latd26-n | 0.699 | 0.460 | |
| latd09-y1 | 0.585 | 0.495 | -0.168 | 0.422 | latd03-y2 | 0.764 | 0.426 | |
| latd17-n | 0.740 | 0.441 | -0.030 | 0.396 | latd27-n | 0.780 | 0.416 | |
| latd10-y1 | 0.602 | 0.492 | 0.048 | 0.384 | latd05-y2 | 0.675 | 0.470 | |
| latd07-y1 | 0.732 | 0.445 | 0.146 | 0.368 | latd02-y2 | 0.561 | 0.498 | |
| latd18-n | 0.496 | 0.502 | 0.012 | 0.391 | latd01-y2 | 0.846 | 0.363 | |
| latd19-n | 0.732 | 0.445 | 0.082 | 0.378 | latd28-n | 0.675 | 0.470 | |
| latd20-n | 0.366 | 0.484 | -0.006 | 0.393 | latd09-y2 | 0.618 | 0.488 | |
| latd01-y1 | 0.951 | 0.216 | 0.115 | 0.378 | latd29-n | 0.748 | 0.436 | |
| latd02-y1 | 0.553 | 0.499 | 0.160 | 0.364 | latd30-n | 0.764 | 0.426 | |
| latd21-n | 0.821 | 0.385 | 0.051 | 0.383 | | | | |
| latd22-n | 0.740 | 0.441 | 0.157 | 0.366 | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | |

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| latd04-y2 latd06-y2 | mean 0.756 | sd | item-rest correlation | If item dropped Cronbach's α |
|------------------------|---------------|-------|-----------------------|---------------------------------|
| latd06-y2 | 0.756 | | | Ci Silbacii 5 a |
| • | | 0.431 | 0.124 | 0.371 |
| 1-+-107 - 2 | 0.732 | 0.445 | 0.195 | 0.359 |
| latd07-y2 | 0.748 | 0.436 | 0.129 | 0.370 |
| latd23-n | 0.829 | 0.378 | 0.189 | 0.363 |
| latd08-y2 | 0.382 | 0.488 | 0.042 | 0.385 |
| latd10-y2 | 0.659 | 0.476 | 0.058 | 0.382 |
| latd24-n | 0.667 | 0.473 | 0.177 | 0.361 |
| latd25-n | 0.740 | 0.441 | 0.206 | 0.358 |
| latd26-n | 0.699 | 0.460 | 0.163 | 0.364 |
| latd03-y2 | 0.764 | 0.426 | 0.057 | 0.382 |
| latd27-n | 0.780 | 0.416 | -0.010 | 0.392 |
| latd05-y2 | 0.675 | 0.470 | 0.099 | 0.375 |
| latd02-y2 | 0.561 | 0.498 | 0.128 | 0.370 |
| latd01-y2 | 0.846 | 0.363 | 0.222 | 0.360 |
| latd28-n | 0.675 | 0.470 | 0.054 | 0.383 |
| latd09-y2 | 0.618 | 0.488 | -0.033 | 0.398 |
| latd29-n | 0.748 | 0.436 | 0.179 | 0.362 |
| latd30-n | 0.764 | 0.426 | 0.096 | 0.376 |

ALPACAA_1 Inter-Item Reliability (all items)



| | n | Cronbach's α | Average inter item correlation | 95% CI Lower | 95% CI Higher |
|---------------------------------------|-----|--------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| ALPACAA_1 (sound recognition) all | 123 | 0.385 | 0.017 | 0.329 | 0.438 |
| ALPACAA_1 (sound recognition) revised | 123 | 0.535 | 0.036 | 0.492 | 0.575 |

ALPACAA_1 Item Reliability Statistics (yes only)

| | mean | sd | item-rest correlation | If item dropped Cronbach's α |
|-----------|-------|-------|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| latd03-y1 | 0.894 | 0.309 | 0.180 | 0.532 |
| latd08-y1 | 0.301 | 0.460 | 0.106 | 0.543 |
| latd05-y1 | 0.813 | 0.391 | 0.091 | 0.544 |
| latd04-y1 | 0.691 | 0.464 | 0.258 | 0.517 |
| latd06-y1 | 0.780 | 0.416 | -0.129 | 0.576 |
| latd09-y1 | 0.585 | 0.495 | -0.007 | 0.564 |
| latd10-y1 | 0.602 | 0.492 | 0.217 | 0.524 |
| latd07-y1 | 0.732 | 0.445 | 0.162 | 0.533 |
| latd01-y1 | 0.951 | 0.216 | 0.124 | 0.539 |
| latd02-y1 | 0.553 | 0.499 | 0.284 | 0.511 |
| latd04-y2 | 0.756 | 0.431 | 0.185 | 0.530 |
| latd06-y2 | 0.732 | 0.445 | 0.169 | 0.532 |
| latd07-y2 | 0.748 | 0.436 | 0.300 | 0.510 |
| latd08-y2 | 0.382 | 0.488 | 0.103 | 0.544 |
| latd10-y2 | 0.659 | 0.476 | 0.219 | 0.523 |
| latd03-y2 | 0.764 | 0.426 | 0.216 | 0.525 |
| latd05-y2 | 0.675 | 0.470 | 0.178 | 0.531 |
| latd02-y2 | 0.561 | 0.498 | 0.268 | 0.514 |
| latd01-y2 | 0.846 | 0.363 | 0.336 | 0.509 |
| latd09-y2 | 0.618 | 0.488 | 0.252 | 0.517 |



Inter-item reliability (Cronbach's alpha)



| | n | Cronbach's α | Average inter item correlation | 95% CI Lower | 95% CI Higher |
|---|-----|--------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| ALPACAA_1 (sound recognition) all | 123 | 0.385 | 0.017 | 0.329 | 0.438 |
| ALPACAA_1 (sound recognition) revised | 123 | 0.535 | 0.036 | 0.492 | 0.575 |
| ALPACAA_1 (sound recognition) correct | 123 | 0.544 | 0.502 | 0.502 | 0.584 |
| ALPACAA_1 (sound recognition) correct revised | 123 | 0.593 | 0.075 | 0.555 | 0.629 |

ALPACAA_4 Item Reliability Statistics

| | mean | sd | item-rest correlation | If item dropped Cronbach's α | |
|--------------------|-------|-------|-----------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|
| eket-arap-sa | 0.825 | 0.382 | 0.173 | 0.609 | |
| ipod-ilad-za | 0.850 | 0.359 | 0.247 | 0.601 Swans | ea University |
| eket-arap | 0.733 | 0.444 | 0.316 | 0.591 Prifyso | gol Abertawe |
| atak-arap-sa | 0.767 | 0.425 | 0.299 | 0.594 | |
| ipot-arap | 0.592 | 0.494 | 0.095 | 0.621 | |
| atag-ilad | 0.583 | 0.495 | 0.349 | 0.584 | |
| unak atak-arap-sa | 0.875 | 0.332 | 0.321 | 0.595 | |
| umush-ek ipot-arap | 0.783 | 0.414 | 0.306 | 0.593 | |
| unak-ek ipot-arap | 0.642 | 0.482 | 0.255 | 0.599 | |
| inut-ek eket-arap | 0.708 | 0.456 | 0.222 | 0.603 | |
| unak-em eked-ilad | 0.592 | 0.494 | 0.245 | 0.600 | |
| umush-em ipod-ilad | 0.675 | 0.470 | 0.253 | 0.599 | |
| unak ipot-arap-sa | 0.692 | 0.464 | 0.253 | 0.599 | |
| umush ipot-arap-sa | 0.633 | 0.484 | 0.137 | 0.615 | |
| ipod-orad-za | 0.817 | 0.389 | 0.220 | 0.604 | |
| atag-orad-za | 0.508 | 0.502 | -0.003 | 0.635 | |
| eked-orad-za | 0.650 | 0.479 | 0.315 | 0.590 | |
| umush-ek atag-orad | 0.658 | 0.476 | 0.334 | 0.587 | |
| unak-em atag-orad | 0.650 | 0.479 | 0.291 | 0.593 | |
| ipod-orad | 0.400 | 0.492 | -0.219 | 0.662 | |

Internal reliability (Cronbach's alpha)



| | n | Cronbach's α | Average inter item correlation | 95% CI Lower | 95% CI Higher |
|---|-----|--------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| ALPACAA_4 (grammatical inferencing) | 120 | 0.617 | 0.079 | 0.581 | 0.650 |
| ALPACAA_4 (grammatical inferencing) revised | 120 | 0.682 | 0.108 | 0.652 | 0.710 |

Discussion



- ALPACAA_2 & 3 (vocab and sound/symbol) discriminate well.
 - Participants chose from 20 pictures.
- ALPACAA_1 & 4 (sound recognition and grammatical inferencing) do not discriminate well.
 - Participants given binary choice.
- Need more participants.
- More detailed analysis of items.
- Follow Bokander & Bylund (2019)



RQ3: What is the relationship between the new scoring method and WM

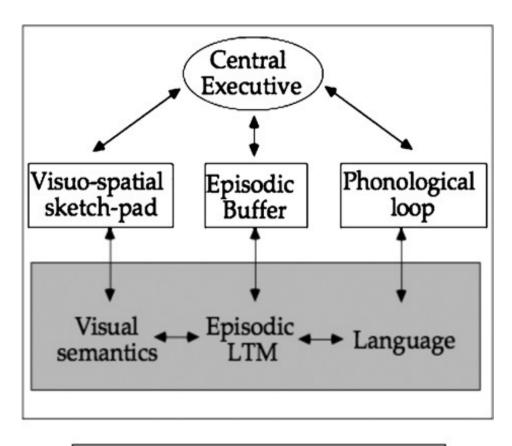
What is working memory?



"Working memory refers to the system or systems that are assumed to be necessary in order to keep things in mind while performing complex tasks such as reasoning, comprehension and learning." Baddeley (2010, p. 136)

STM: maintenance of information

WM: maintenance and manipulation



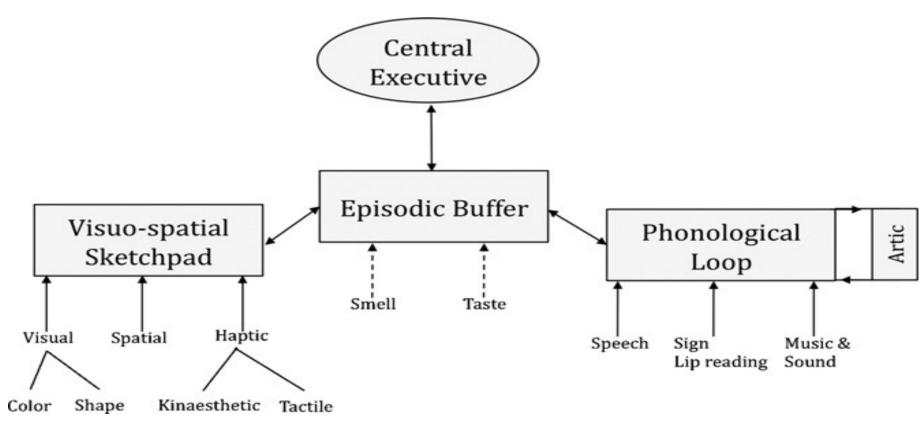
Crystallised

systems

Fluid

Revised WM model (Baddeley et al 2011)





Previous work with LLAMA (presented at

EUROSLA 2017)



Table I - Participant Data

 No. Females
 60

 No. Males
 67

 Age Range
 16-78

 Average Age
 33.5

- Data collected by BA dissertation students:
 - Tesni Galvin, Amelia Cobner, Martha Chisholm, Jake Clothier & Issy Greenfield

- 127 participants
 - predominantly students
- Typically L1 English speakers





Results: PCA

 No LLAMA test loads on the same factor as any of the working memory and attention tests.

| Pattern Matrix ^a | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------|------|--|--|--|--|
| | Component | | | | | |
| | 1 2 | | | | | |
| LLAMAE | .807 | | | | | |
| LLAMAF | .799 | | | | | |
| LLAMAB | .670 | | | | | |
| LLAMAD | .546 | | | | | |
| WM3 (A) | | .906 | | | | |
| WM3 (B) | | .877 | | | | |
| WM1 (Visual) | | 498 | | | | |
| WM2 (Digits) | | 392 | | | | |

Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis.

Rotation Method: Oblimin with Kaiser Normalization.

Rotation converged in 6 iterations.

Results: PCA part 2

- Even if forced to four factors, LLAMA tests load differently to the WM/attention tests.
- LLAMA B, E & F measure something different to LLAMA D (similar to Grañena 2013).
- TMT parts A & B measure different aspect of WM to the digits backwards (PSTM) and visuospatial/ storage measures.

| Pattern Matrix ^a | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|------|-----------|------|------|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | Component | | | | | | | |
| | 1 | 1 2 3 4 | | | | | | | |
| LLAMAF | .831 | | | | | | | | |
| LLAMAE | .828 | | | | | | | | |
| LLAMAB | .672 | | | | | | | | |
| WM3 (A) | | .914 | | | | | | | |
| WM3 (B) | | .867 | | | | | | | |
| WM2 (Digits) | | | .897 | | | | | | |
| WM1 (Visual) | | | .586 | | | | | | |
| LLAM A D | | | | .947 | | | | | |

Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis.

Rotation Method: Oblimin with Kaiser Normalization.

a. Rotation converged in 6 iterations.

Working memory results (n=121)



| | flanker conflict cost | stroop conflict cost | DB_span |
|----------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|---------|
| Mean | 45.440 | 127.297 | 5.537 |
| Std. Deviation | 20.379 | 114.391 | 1.317 |
| Minimum | 0.025 | -43.880 | 3.000 |
| Maximum | 110.550 | 1123.434 | 9.000 |

Only significant correlation (Spearman's) between Stroop and Digits Backwards (r= -0.252, p=.005)

| | | flanker cost | stroop cost | DB_span | A1 | A2 | A3 | A4 |
|---------------------|----------------|--------------|-------------|-----------|--------|-----------|-----------|----|
| flanker | Spearman's rho | _ | | | | | | |
| conflict cost | p-value | _ | | | | | | |
| stroop | Spearman's rho | 0.065 | _ | | | | | |
| conflict cost | p-value | 0.478 | _ | | | | | |
| DB_span | Spearman's rho | 0.049 | -0.252** | _ | | | | |
| DD_Shaii | p-value | 0.590 | 0.005 | _ | | | | |
| A1_total_corr | Spearman's rho | 0.006 | -0.046 | 0.073 | _ | | | |
| ect | p-value | 0.948 | 0.616 | 0.428 | _ | | | |
| A2_total_cori | Spearman's rho | -0.012 | -0.186* | 0.432*** | 0.200* | _ | | |
| ect | p-value | 0.901 | 0.045 | 1.161e -6 | 0.031 | _ | | |
| A3_otal_corr ect | Spearman's rho | 0.019 | -0.178 | 0.252** | 0.178 | 0.467*** | _ | |
| | p-value | 0.834 | 0.052 | 0.005 | 0.052 | 1.253e -7 | _ | |
| A4_total_cor | Spearman's rho | -0.021 | -0.193 | 0.200* | 0.191* | 0.523*** | 0.455*** | _ |
| ect | p-value | 0.821 | 0.036 | 0.029 | 0.037 | 1.988e -9 | 2.254e -7 | _ |

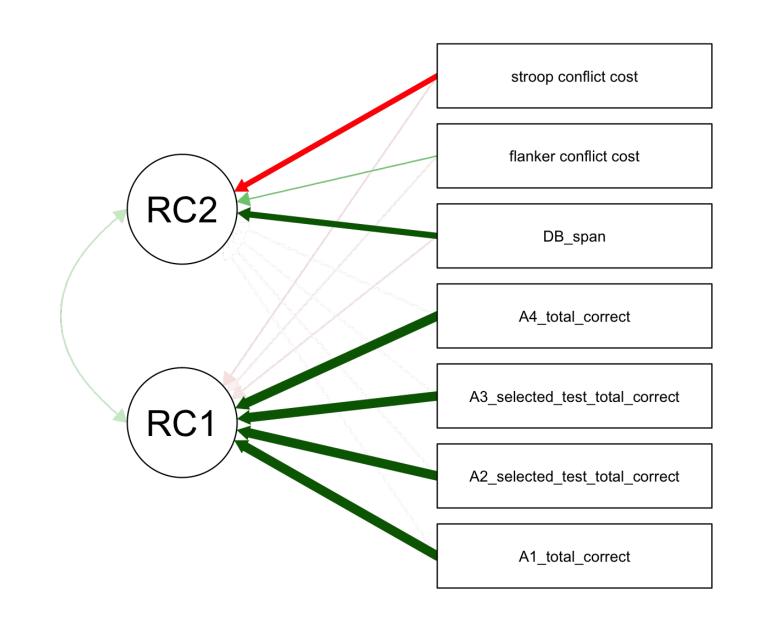




Component Loadings

| | RC 1 | RC 2 | Uniqueness |
|--------------------------------|-------|--------|------------|
| A1_total_correct | 1.000 | | 1.821e -4 |
| A2_selected_test_total_correct | 1.000 | | 1.895e -4 |
| A3_selected_test_total_correct | 1.000 | | 2.005e -4 |
| A4_total_correct | 1.000 | | 1.792e -4 |
| DB_span | | 0.765 | 0.417 |
| flanker conflict cost | • | | 0.958 |
| stroop conflict cost | • | -0.714 | 0.484 |

Note. Applied rotation method is promax.



Discussion



- WM tests and ALPACAA aptitude tests (total correct) are measuring different things.
- WM may be part of aptitude but doesn't replace it
 - (cf Wen, 2016)

- Comparable to previous findings on LLAMA and WM.
 - Different WM tests (Corsi block, TMT A&B & Digits backwards)
- Didn't find difference with sound recognition and other tests.
 - Scores to 100 and no penalities?

Overall conclusion



- ALPACAA are an (initial) attempt to refine the LLAMA tests.
- Further work needed on:
 - ALPACAA_4 (grammatical inferencing) and ALPACAA_1 (sound recognition) in terms of reliability.
 - ALPACAA_3 (sound/symbol) in terms of negative skew.
 - Are layout revisions enough?
- More detailed analysis of RT and items needed.

• New versions of LLAMA are also in development – see Paul Meara's website (<u>www.lognostics.co.uk</u>) for updates.

Thank you! Diolch yn fawr! Tack så mycket!

Vivienne Rogers: v.e.rogers@swansea.ac.uk



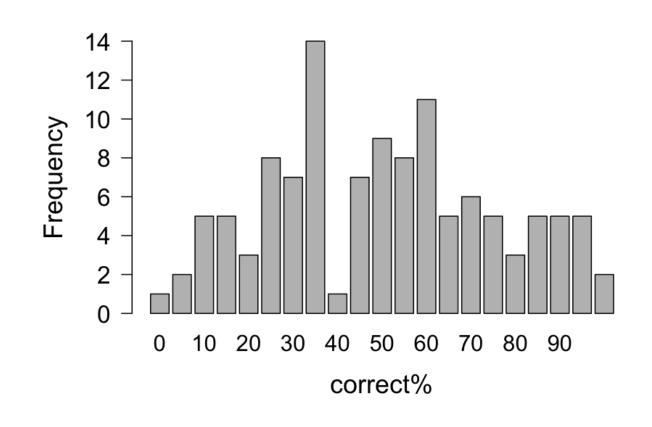
ALPACAA 2 (vocabulary)

- Adjusted for not doing learning phase (20 items)
- Criteria must click on each item at least once



- Removal of 6 participants
- n=117
- Average clicks in learning phase = 49.89, S.D = 15.643
- Range = 21-95

- Adjusted mean=50.5%
- Adjusted S.D = 25.337



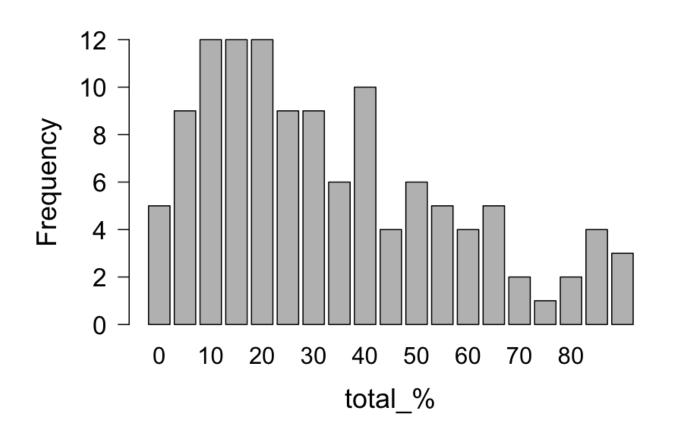
ALPACAA 3 (sound-symbol)

- Adjusted for not doing learning phase (20 items)
- Criteria must click on each item at least once



- Removal of 3 participants
- n=120
- Average clicks in learning phase =
 62.66, S.D = 17.191
- Range = 21-109

- Adjusted mean=33.71%
- Adjusted S.D = 24.94



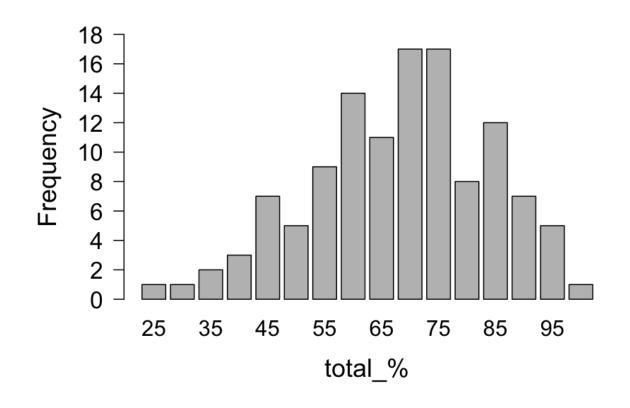
ALPACAA 4 (grammatical inferencing)

- Adjusted for not doing learning phase (20 items)
- Criteria must click on each item at least once



- Removal of 3 participants
- n=120
- Average clicks in learning phase = 102.5, S.D = 44.56
- Range = 21-259

- Adjusted mean=68.25%
- Adjusted S.D = 15.67



What about adjusting for guessing?

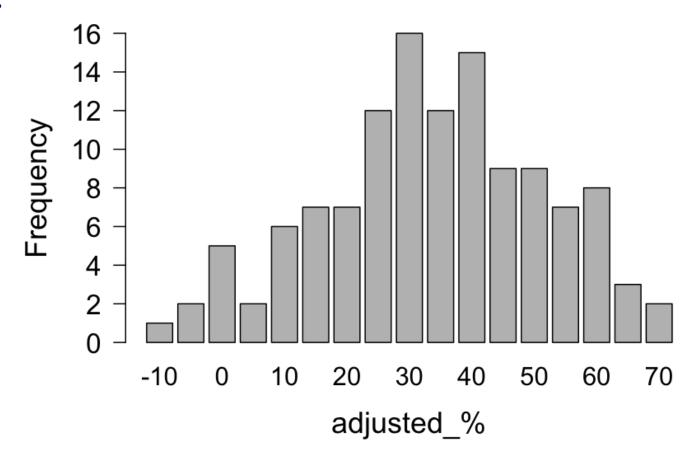


- Previous figures were total correct only.
- ALPACAA_2 (vocabulary): chose one from 20 options guessing at 5%
- ALPACAA_3 (sound/symbol): chose one from 20 options guessing at 5%
- BUT:
- ALPACAA_1 (sound recognition): chose one from 2 options guessing at 50%
- ALPACAA_4 (grammatical inferencing): chose one from 2 options
 - first answer: 12/20 (or 60%)
 - second answer: 8/20 (or 40%)

What about adjusting for guessing?



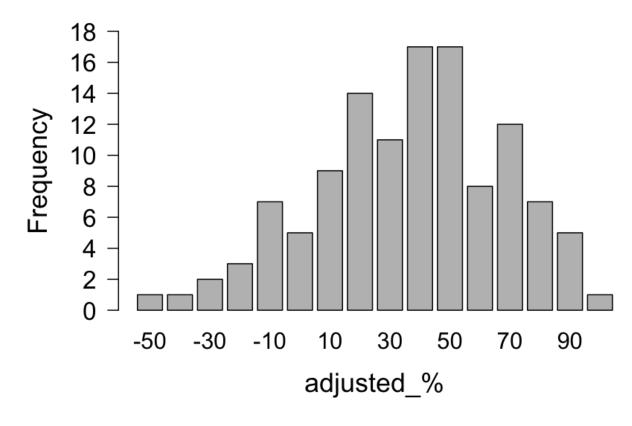
- ALPACAA_1 (sound recognition): chose one from 2 options
- LLAMA: lose 1 mark (5%) for every incorrect choice
- Adjusted for incorrect scores:
- M=33.74, S.D=17.86
 - Mean was 68.67
- Range: -10 70



What about adjusting for guessing?



- ALPACAA_4 (grammatical inferencing): chose one from 2 options
- LLAMA: lose 1 mark (5%) for every incorrect choice
- Adjusted for incorrect scores:
- M=36.50, S.D=31.35
 - Mean was 68.33
- Range: -50 100



Previous validation work: Grañena



- Grañena (2013):
- Internal consistency, Gender and Language neutrality
- n=187 aged 18-39
- L1s: Spanish, Chinese and English
- internal consistency but two forms of aptitude
- LLAMA D measures implicit and others explicit?

- Grañena (2018):
- Compared 4 LLAMA tests with 4 Hi-LAB (n=135)
- Found 3 underlying constructs across the tests.
- Only the factor with LLAMA D and ALTM Synonym
- (Hi-LAB) significantly predicted L2 fluency (pruned speech rate per min).

Rogers, V., Meara, P., Barnett-Legh, T., Curry, C., & Davie, E. (2017). Examining the LLAMA aptitude tests.. *Journal of the European Second Language Association*, 1(1), 49–60.



• How much of the LLAMA test score variance do the individual factors measures account for?

DOI: http://doi.org/10.22599/jesla.24

- Factors included age, L1, L2 status, education level, gender, playing of logic puzzles.
- 404 participants in total.
- 346 took all 4 parts of the LLAMA tests and background questionnaires.

- Multiple regression analysis for 6 factors.
 Overall variance for:
 - LLAMA B: R2 = 9.1%
 - LLAMA D: R2 = 4.8%
 - LLAMA E: R2 = 3.4%
 - LLAMA F: R2 = 6.6%
- Only L2 status consistently was significant p<.05 (not for E).
 - LLAMA B: β = -.250, contribution to variance = 6.0
 - LLAMA D: β = .136, contribution to variance = 1.8
 - LLAMA F: β = -.165, contribution to variance = 2.6

Further evidence: age and bilingualism

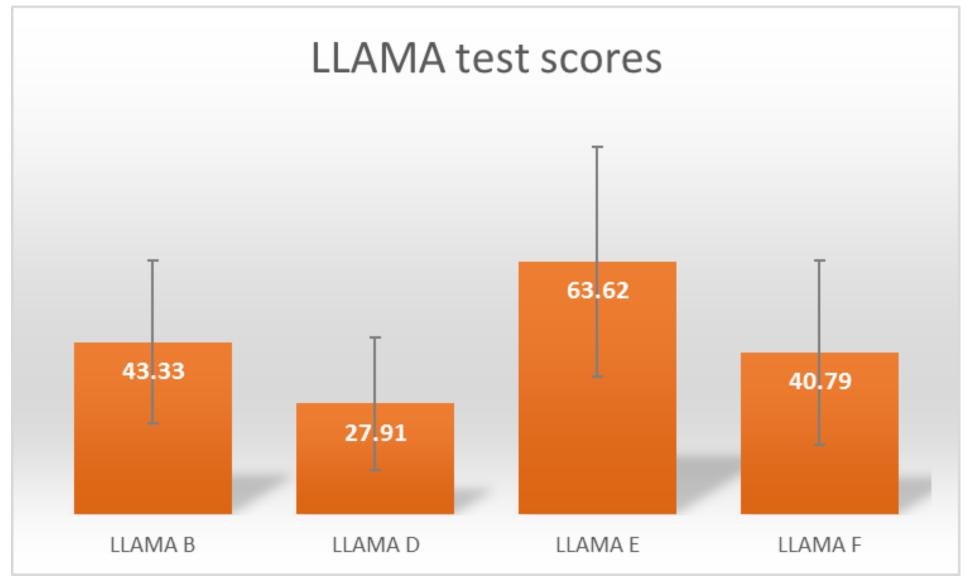


- WM and aptitude are affected by age and bilingualism in different ways.
- Bilingual advantage in older group across 3 of the LLAMA aptitude tests.
- Age advantage on one of the WM tests (TMT A).

| | Group 1 | Group 2 |
|------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Mean age (range) | 21 (18-23) | 61.5 (50-78) |
| Bilingual | 14 (7 F, 7M) | 14 (7 F, 7M) |
| Monolingual | 14 (7 F, 7M) | 14 (7 F, 7M) |
| n | 28 | 28 |

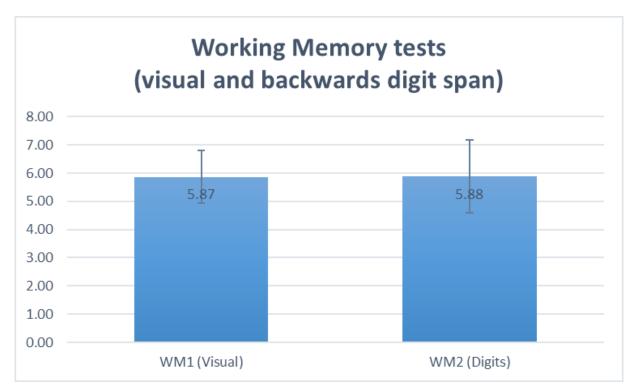
Results: Aptitude





Results: WM







| | | LLAMA B | LLAMA D | LLAMA E | LLAMA F | WM1 (Visual) | WM2 (Digits) | WM3 (A) |
|----------------|-------------|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------|--------------|--------------|-----------|
| LLAMA B | Pearson's r | _ | | | | | | |
| LLAIVIA D | p-value | _ | | | | | | |
| LLAMA D | Pearson's r | 0.299 *** | _ | | | | | |
| LLAIVIA D | p-value | < .001 | _ | | | | | |
| LLAMA E | Pearson's r | 0.387 *** | 0.240 ** | _ | | | | |
| LLAIVIA L | p-value | < .001 | 0.006 | _ | | | | |
| LLAMA F | Pearson's r | 0.500 *** | 0.263 ** | 0.524 *** | _ | | | |
| LLAIVIAI | p-value | < .001 | 0.003 | < .001 | _ | | | |
| WM1 | Pearson's r | 0.242 ** | 0.143 | 0.345 *** | 0.340 *** | _ | | |
| (Visual) | p-value | 0.006 | 0.107 | < .001 | < .001 | _ | | |
| WM2 (Digits) | Pearson's r | 0.201 * | 0.149 | 0.233 ** | 0.258 ** | 0.440 *** | _ | |
| WIVIZ (DIGITS) | p-value | 0.023 | 0.092 | 0.008 | 0.003 | < .001 | _ | |
| WM3 (A) | Pearson's r | -0.263 ** | -0.153 | -0.089 | -0.152 | -0.234 ** | -0.169 | _ |
| WIVIS (A) | p-value | 0.003 | 0.083 | 0.318 | 0.086 | 0.008 | 0.056 | _ |
| WM3 (B) | Pearson's r | -0.253 ** | -0.107 | -0.166 | -0.281 ** | -0.274 ** | -0.195 * | 0.639 *** |
| vvivio (d) | p-value | 0.004 | 0.226 | 0.060 | 0.001 | 0.002 | 0.027 | < .001 |

* p < .05, ** p < .01, *** p < .001

Correlational results



- Significant weak correlations found with LLAMA B, E & F with Visual and Digits WM scores.
 - LLAMA B, E & F = explicit measures
 - WM = visuo-spatial (reading) & phonological loop
 - Lack of correlation with LLAMA D

- Significant weak correlations between TMT B and LLAMA B & F.
- Significant weak correlations between TMT A and LLAMA B
 - TMT A & B = central executive / attentional control
 - LLAMA B = vocabulary, LLAMA F = grammatical inferencing

