I. Comparing Simple vs. Real-World Tasks

QUESTION: Can simple lab search tasks identify successful searchers in important real-world tasks (e.g., airport baggage screening, radiology, secret service)?

II. Is there within-task reliability? YES!

III. Is there between-task reliability? MAYBE...

Conclusions

I. The Good News

Reaction times are highly correlated within task category (e.g., T among Ls and baggage screening). Except for indoor scenes, if you are fast at one task, you are fast at all tasks.

II. The Bad News

Accuracy and search efficiency are not correlated between task categories. So these simple search tasks don’t seem to be helpful in identifying the best “professional” visual searchers.