



Remember More With An Unexpected Event: Violation of Expectation Erases Short-Term Source Amnesia

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Introduction

Background:

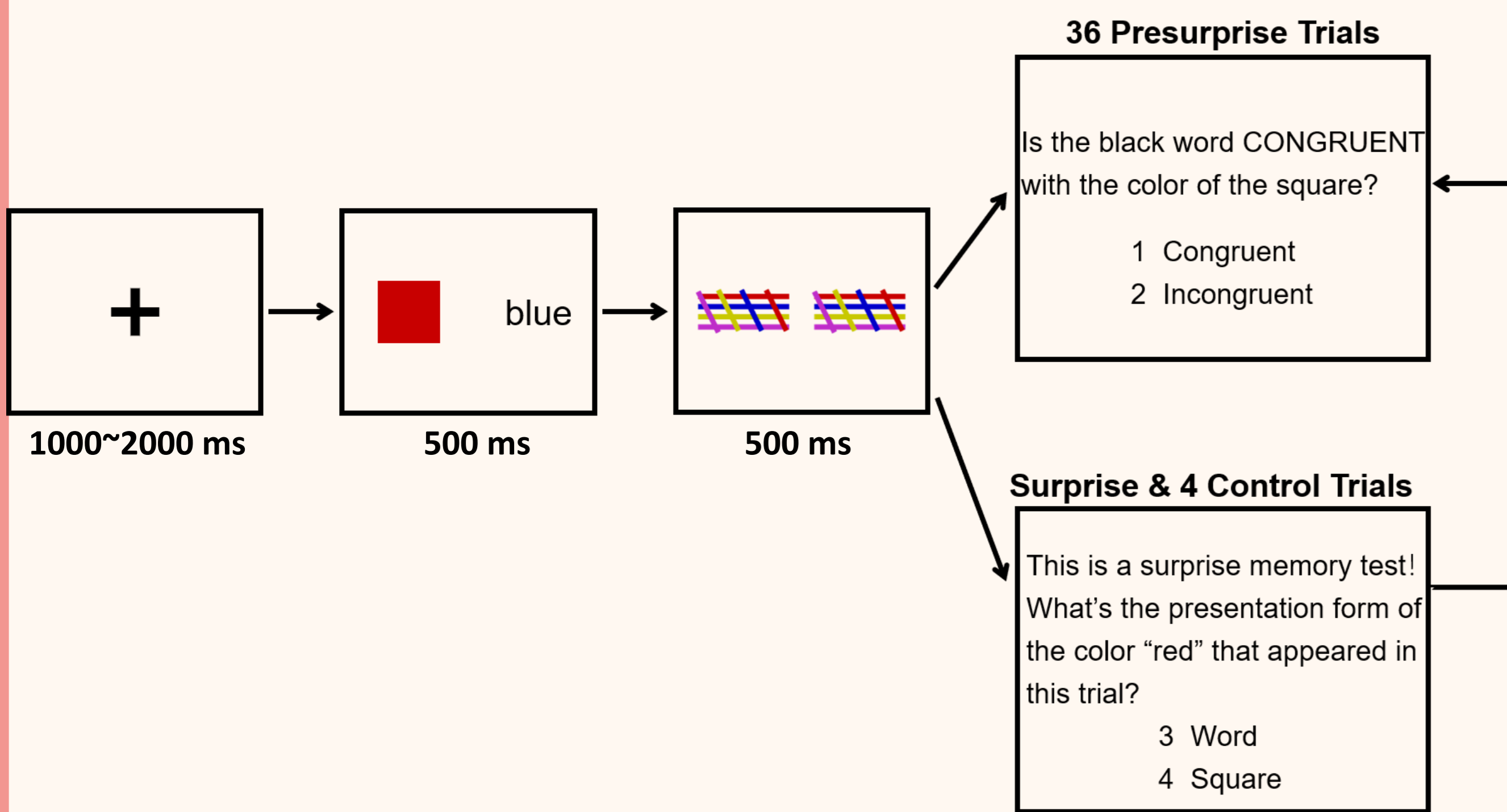
- Source amnesia was observed in the context of short-term memory when participants had no expectation to report task-irrelevant source information (Chen et al., 2018).
- An expectation violation could facilitate processing task-irrelevant information (Chen et al., 2019).

Question:

Whether an expectation violation would erase the short-term source amnesia?

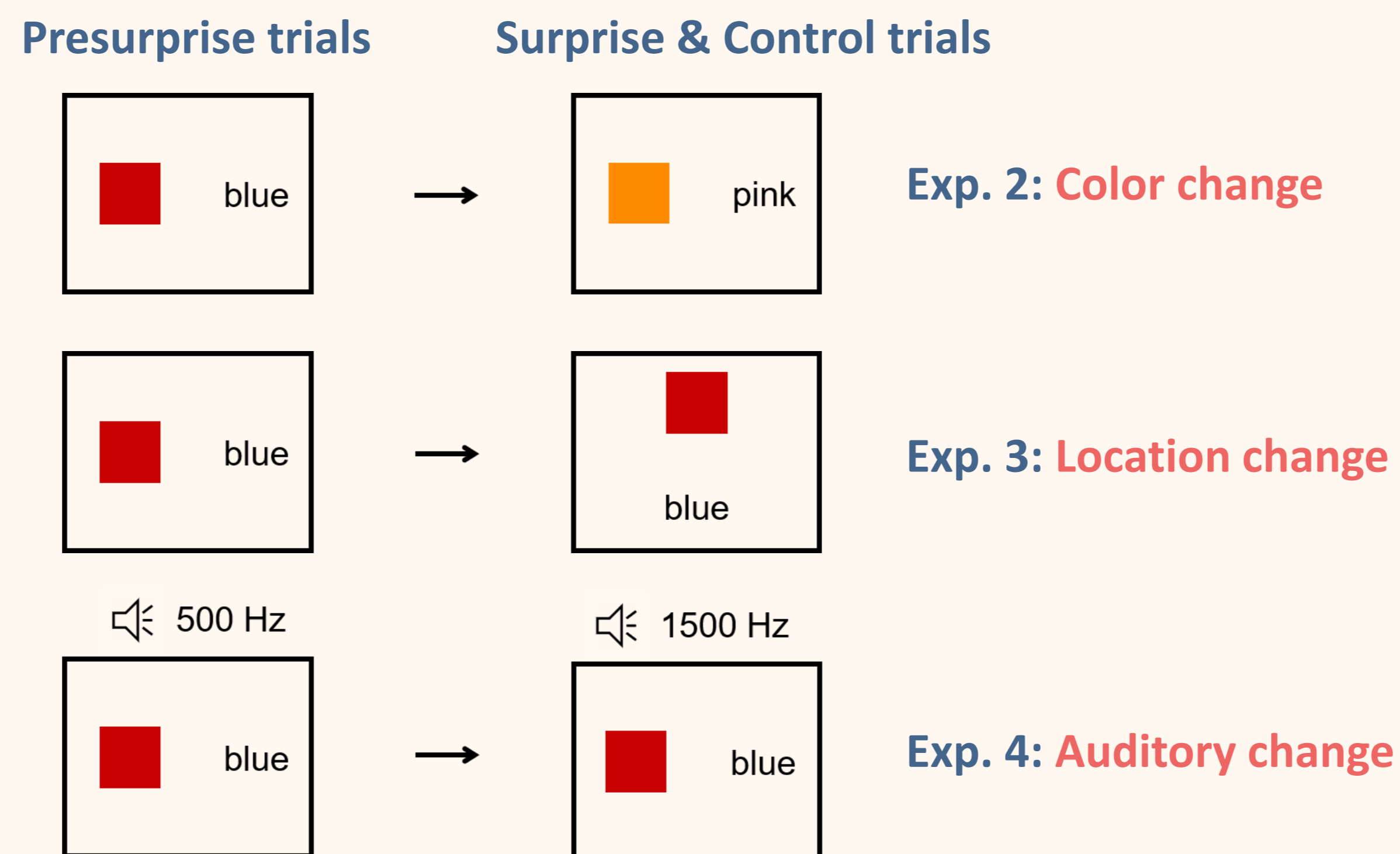
Experiment 1

Replicated the short-term source amnesia

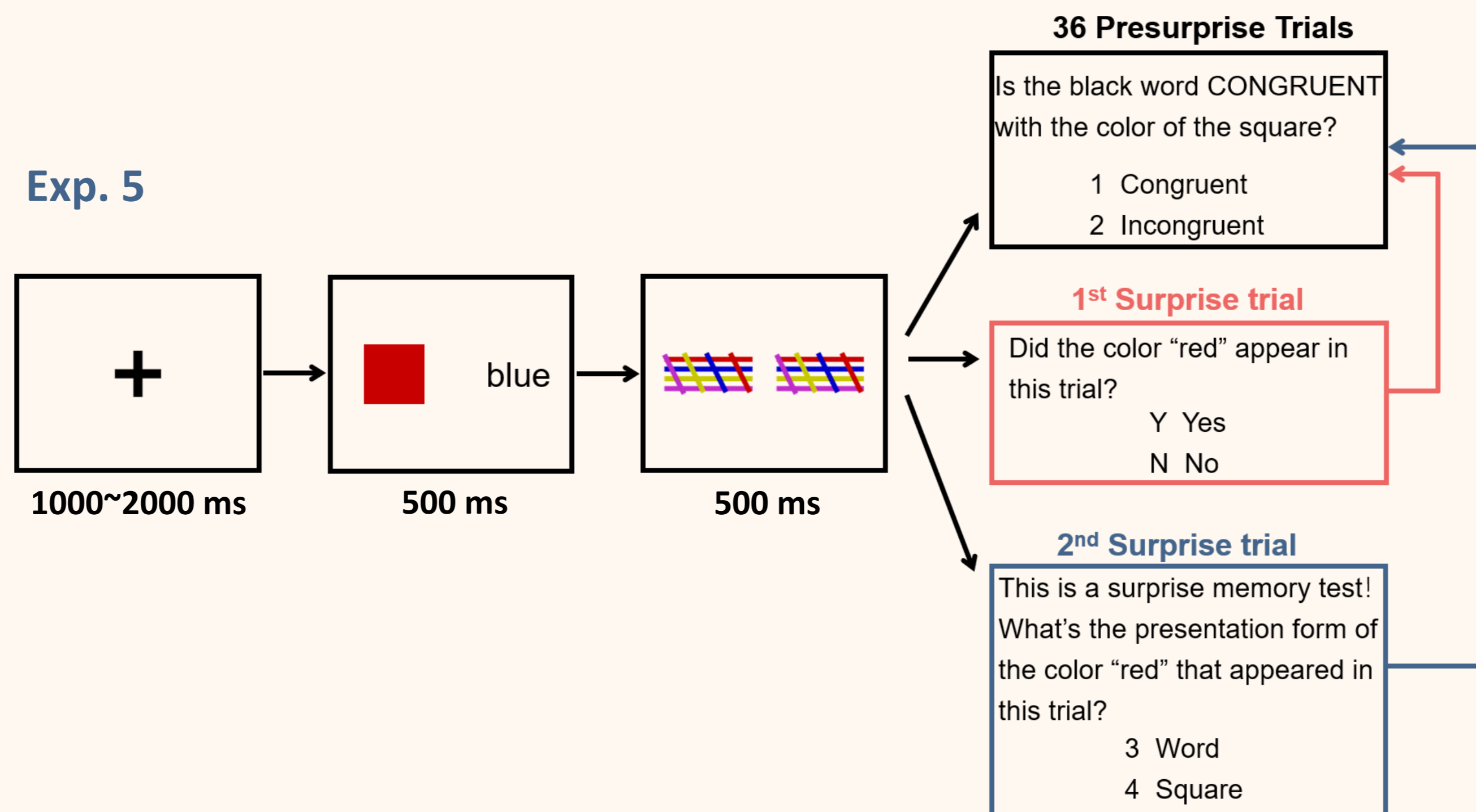


Experiments 2-5

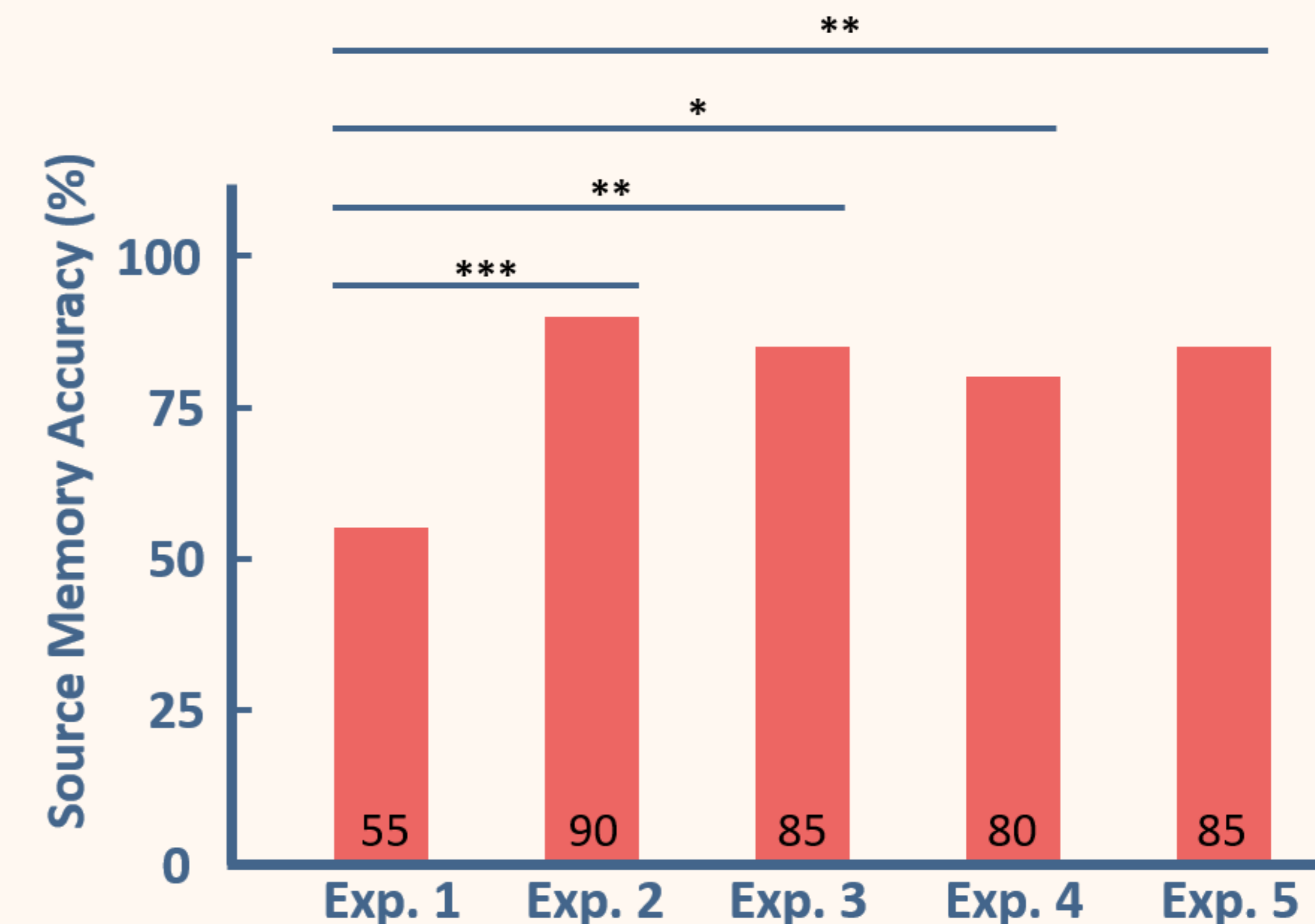
Triggered an expectation violation by a sudden change



Triggered an expectation violation by a surprise test



Results



Conclusion

The short-term memory of source information is improved by violation of expectation.

References:

- Chen, H., Carlson, R., & Wyble, B. (2018). Is source information automatically available in working memory? *Psychological Science*, 29(4), 645-655.
- Chen, H., Yan, N., Zhu, P., Wyble, B., Eitam, B., & Shen, M. (2019). Expecting the unexpected: Violation of expectation shifts strategies toward information exploration. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Human Perception and Performance*, 45(4), 513-522.

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