
Report on the Select Your Intention DVD Experiment Conducted via Wholphin 7

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Summary:

There was no statistically significant effect seen in the Wholphin 7 DVD release of the Select Your Intention (SYIw7) experiment, a massively multi-operator, asynchronous, retrocausal, REG experiment that made use of the DVD medium to direct a large number of operators' intentions to influence previously recorded random data.

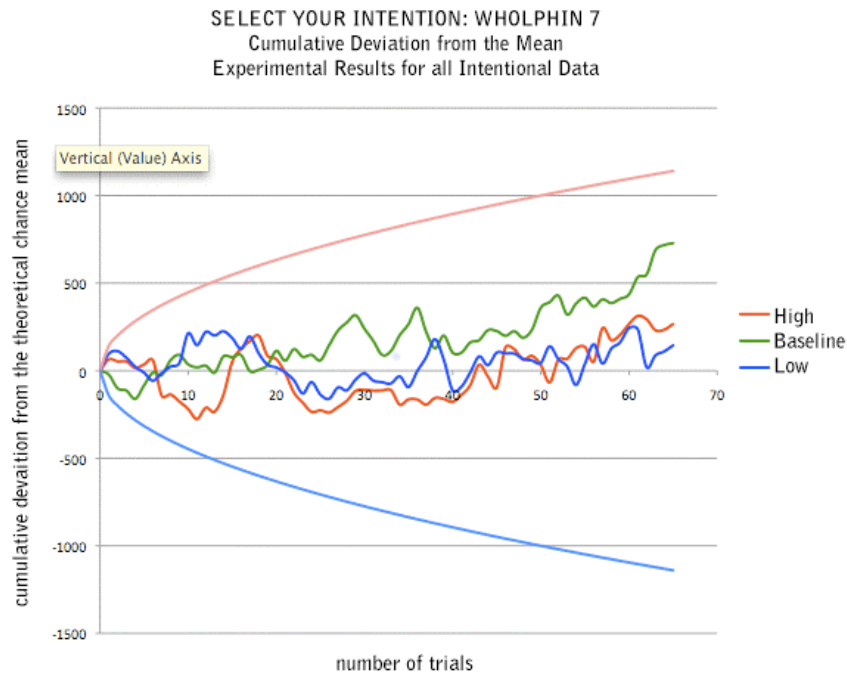
Experimental work at the Princeton Engineering Anomalies Research (PEAR) laboratory lab suggested that this non-local and retro-causal consciousness-related influence was possible. Based on PEAR lab results, we hypothesized that the home operators (DVD viewers) could have a consciousness-related influence on their data in two ways:

1. We could see a non-local retrocausal effect, which would be apparent in subsequent analysis of the data set placed on the DVDs; or,
2. The data set as a whole could show a null result, but operators could see a local selection effect. That is, individually viewed subsets of the larger database could be a non-random sample of the complete database - operators could tend to see a significant trend, while the database as a whole showed none.

The former was something we could check empirically, and we have, finding a null result. The latter is something that may be possible to evaluate in future experiments, but in the context of this non-laboratory experiment, we cannot. Individual users, however, may have seen more striking results in their local data (see the last section of this report).

Results Detail

Graph 1

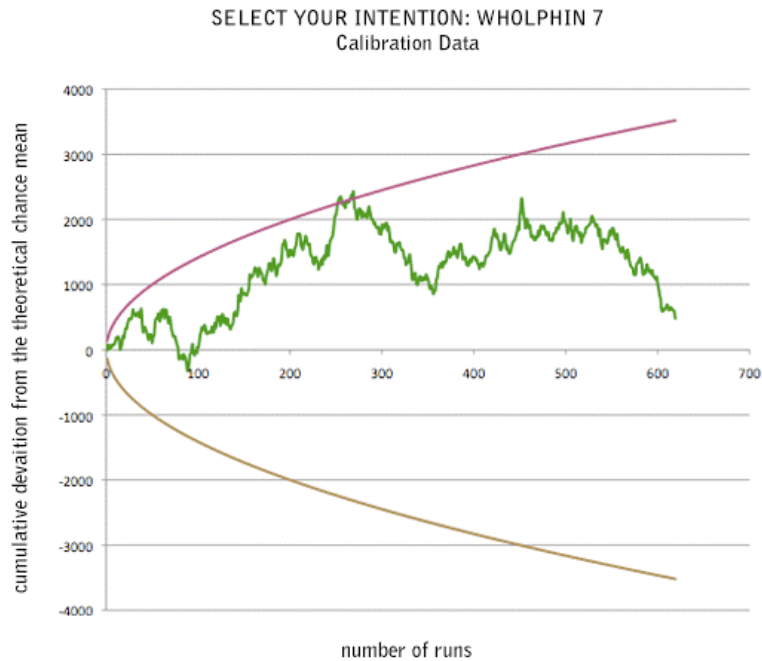


There was no statistically significant effect in high ($p = 0.32$), low ($p=0.40$), baseline ($p=.10$) or high minus low ($p=.44$) cases.

All intentional data had a slightly high (but non-significant) bias, with the low-intention data (mean=100.02) slightly higher than the expected mean of 100, the high data slightly higher than that (mean=100.04), and the baseline data the highest of all (mean=100.11). All of the data is well within the random chance parameters that these devices are designed to produce. This means that there is no conclusive evidence in this data set to support the hypothesis above: that the distributed DVD operators had a non-local retro-causal effect on the chance distributions of the data written onto the DVDs.

Non-intentional non-viewed (calibration) data for the device also shows a chance result ($p = 0.41$, mean = 100.01) over a data set taken the same day the intentional data was generated. (Graph 2)

As mentioned above, hypothesis two could not be tested in this "real-world" DVD-based experiment. Unfortunately, while the data reported by users online gives us a window on the possibility that users could have had an influence on the presentation of their local data, in this experiment, that data must be deemed inconclusive because of the unavoidable reporting bias introduced by the optional nature of the reporting we received (home DVD operators could choose whether or not they wanted to report their data to us online).

Graph 2

Discussion

The SYIw7 data does not independently confirm the PEAR lab results, and does not provide evidence of an operator induced anomalous mean-shift. The split between high, low, and baseline intentions appears to be consistent with chance expectations. Given our limited theoretical understanding of the process in question, this failure to reproduce a statistically significant mean shift, is nearly as inconclusive a result as we could achieve.

While we have no confirmation of PEAR lab results in SYIw7, the implementation of this experiment differed from PEAR lab experimental protocols in numerous ways, many of which are non-trivial. Any of these SYIw7 protocol changes may have limited the efficacy of the intention effect, thus, it is hard to make the case that the lack of a result in SYIw7 contradicts PEAR lab findings.

Some notable differences in protocol:

1. Changes in Data Generation, Processing, and Presentation - The data generation and recording processes, while based on the same Random Event Generator technology the PEAR lab used, had many more layers of digital processing in order to prepare it for DVD distribution, this included graphical display, screen-capture, video editing, encoding for DVD, print replication, player decoding, and random sequencing during playback.
2. Change in Subjective Variables - While it would be impossible to reconstruct the exact subjective variables of any prior experiment, research in this area suggests that many subjective factors do play an important role in the exhibition of an intention effect. SYIw7 had radically different subjective variables in many facets of the experiment. First, the operator experience differed from PEAR lab experiments in that there was essentially no personal interaction between the operators (viewers) and either the experimenter or the relevant devices (REGs). Prior to the experiment, all interaction and instruction was mediated through the video

medium. Secondly, the number of operators involved far exceeded any of the PEAR lab co-operator experiments. Third, the subjective actors themselves were very different. While PEAR lab volunteers had expressed an active interest in the production of these experiments, the same level of interest cannot be assumed for the entire Wholphin audience. Additionally, the experimenters and others who were involved in the production of the DVDs - who may also exert an intentional influence - were more novice, and more numerous. Data processing in SYIw7 also did not retain the simplicity of PEAR protocols; there were many hands involved in the production of the DVDs.

3. Change in the Time-Related Variables - PEAR data did not show that the effect had any dependence on the amount of time that passed between the generation of the data, and the time that the intention was directed at the data by the operator. But importantly, PEAR conducted experiments with much shorter time intervals - a few days in either direction. In SYIw7, a few weeks passed between the time the data was generated, and the time that the first operators saw the experimental runs and stated their intentions. The other time-related variable new to this experiment was the asynchronous selection of operator intentions. In previous multi-operator experiments, the operators were together in a group, and stated their intentions at the same time. In SYIw7, the operators were distributed around the globe, and exerted their intentions at different times over the course of a few months. Some researchers believe that it will only be the first operator to view the data who is able to exert an influence on the data. If these researchers are correct, the results may not reflect the Wholphin audience as a whole, but a much smaller subset of early viewers of Wholphin 7.
4. Change in Database Size - While it was not our expectation that large databases are always necessary to obtain statistically significant effects, this database was much smaller than those commonly used in PEAR laboratory studies. To put this experiment in the context of PEAR lab databases (which overall had a probability of $= 3.5 \times 10^{-13}$), the cumulative result of the PEAR lab's REG experimentation showed an effect size - a positive high-minus-low mean shift - of 0.0416 ± 0.009006 (probability 6.99×10^{-5}), in a database that consisted of more than 1.6 million trials. The SYIw7 experiment, in comparison, had a high-minus-low difference of $0.02 (\pm 0.102)$ in a database of 13,000 trials. Although the direction of the mean shift in SYIw7 was positive (meaning that the high efforts were higher than the low efforts), as it was in the PEAR experiments, this did not constitute a statistically significant result within the much smaller SYIw7 database.

Compared with PEAR's formal experimental databases, all of the PEAR experiments had larger databases than the SYIw7 experiment, and the experiment of the closest comparable size, DIODE20, also failed to achieve statistical significance. This, however, should not be interpreted to mean that any experiment of this modest proportion is doomed to show a null result. Many smaller internal experiments, student projects, and exploratory investigations, both at the PEAR lab and other laboratories, have comparable databases to the SYIw7 database and have shown statistically significant results. While these smaller investigations have largely gone unpublished, and are not a part of PEAR's formal database, they have frequently shown a mean shift much larger than the 0.0416 mean shift demonstrated in the accumulated PEAR database. Thus, these smaller, exploratory databases do potentially produce statistically significant results.

Additionally, when designing the experiment, we considered two experimental results demonstrated by the PEAR lab. First, the lab demonstrated an effect that "bonded co-operators" show a magnified effect size relative to the PEAR average effect size. Secondly, there seems to be a "beginner's luck" or "series-position" effect, where operators tend to get better results the first time they try this type of experiment. Since the protocols of the SYIw7 experiment could potentially take advantage of both of these possible

sources of enhanced effect, we were encouraged that a statistically significant result could be achieved in the SYIw7 experiment, even though we recognized that the amount of data we were able to put on the DVDs had an upper limit which would hinder the experiment's statistical measures.

It was our feeling that given co-operator effects, 'series-position' effects, and known successes in smaller exploratory databases, it would still be possible to generate significant results with SYIw7. None of the protocol changes listed above were thought to necessarily inhibit the effect. However, in the end, the SYIw7 on-disc data set did not show effect sizes at even the levels of the average PEAR data set, much less those achieved by either the first time operators or the "bonded co-operators." In order to achieve statistical significance by the accepted 95% probability criterion, SYIw7 would have needed to show effect sizes similar to those found in these groups that showed mean-shift enhancements over the PEAR average. SYIw7 clearly did not demonstrate those higher mean shifts, and instead demonstrated that the many variations introduced when interpreting PEAR's protocols for the DVD medium do not enhance the effect size shown in this pre-recorded data.

Random Selection Effect and Operator Reporting

We mentioned in the summary statement that it would be possible for operators to see local effects even if the data set as a whole (all the data placed on the DVDs) showed a null result. How is this possible? Since each individual operator only saw a small (and randomized) subset of the data that was on the DVD, that subset could show a better correlation with intention than the complete data set simply by including 'good' runs, and excluding 'bad' runs. This 'random' selection is another point where it could be possible that operators induced a consciousness-related anomaly, in effect, influencing which runs were observed, without necessarily influencing the trends in the data set as a whole.

Viewing the operators as a group, we can also see the possibility that the collection of all of the subsets seen by all the operators who participated in the experiment could collectively show a statistically significant result, even if the data set as a whole did not show a significant effect. This would be expressed as a tendency of operators in the operator pool to show a positive "selection effect" on the random presentation of run displays.

SYIw7 operators, the home DVD viewers, may have experienced a collective significant mean shift even though the data set as a whole showed a null result. Unfortunately, this is impossible to know empirically for this implementation of the experiment, as the data we have on user experience is only through optional operator reporting through our online form, which we expect to show significant user reporting bias. For example, operators who got a good result are more likely to be satisfied with the experiment, and thus more inclined to report their results. Groups may also report results differently from individuals, men from women, and so on. So, partly because of the broad 'real-world' context for this experiment, there are some aspects we cannot evaluate rigorously.

The user reporting did provide very valuable information to us on how the task was experienced, how our interfaces could be improved, and things we could change in future experiments, as well as indications of possible local effects that were not expressed in the database as a whole. Because of the systemic and unavoidable user reporting bias in that set of data, we cannot report on those effects here, but the user reporting data does indicate that there is merit to further investigations of these possible non-chance operator-selection effects. We intend to pursue this possibility more rigorously in future experimental design.

Thanks for your interest, and if you were an operator for SYIw7, thanks for your participation.