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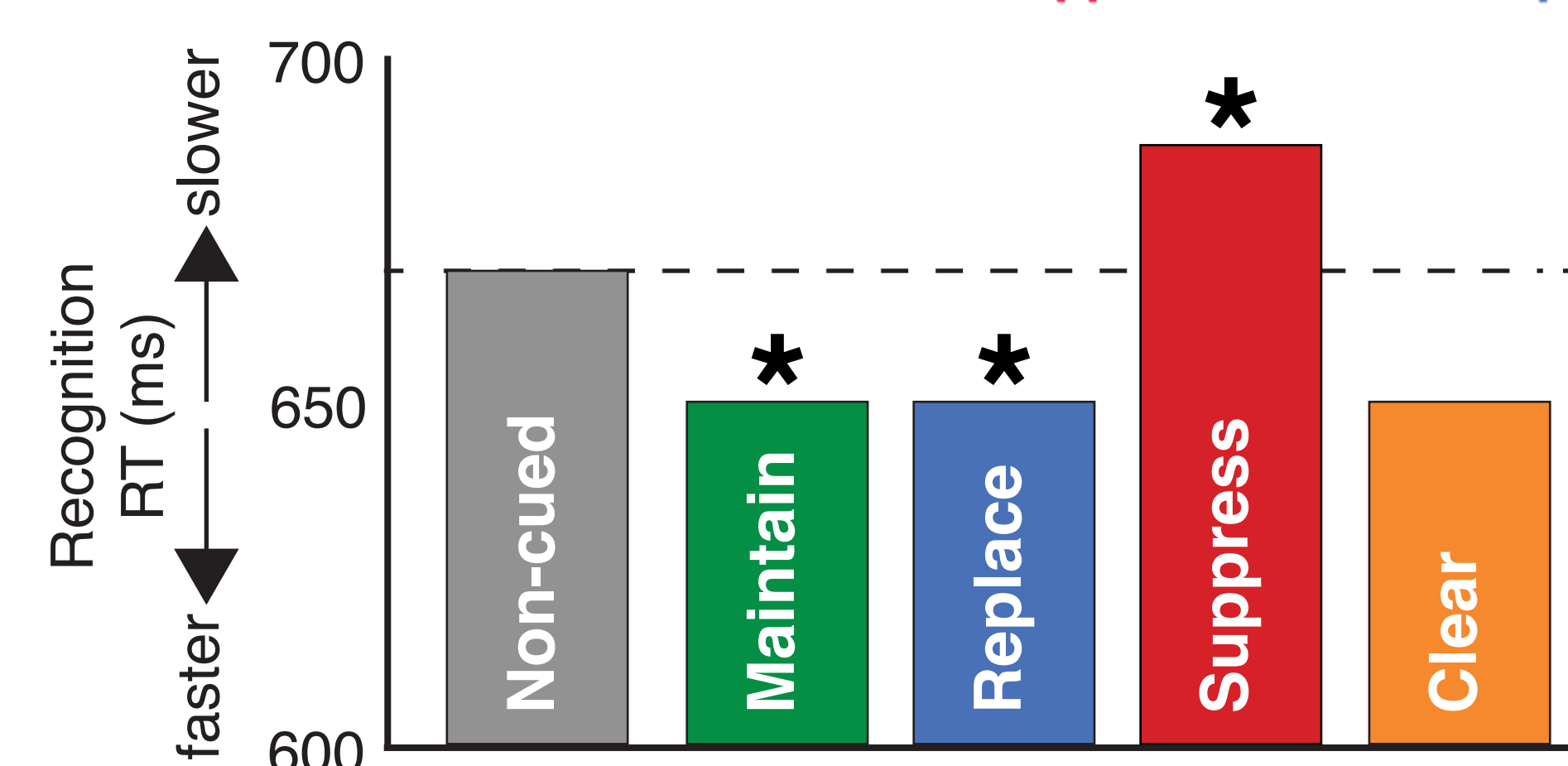
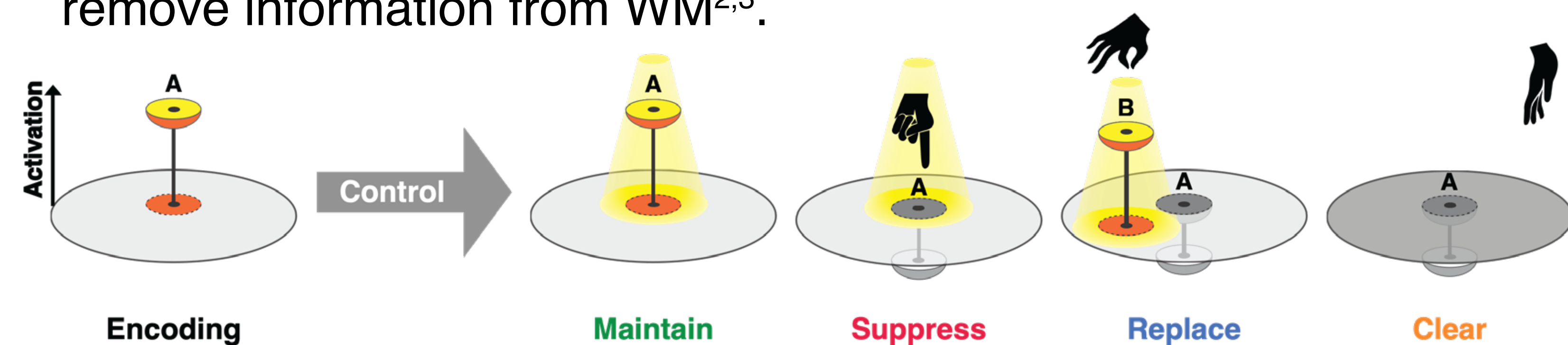
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## 1 INTRODUCTION

### Background

- Removing unwanted information from working memory (WM) allows for its efficient use<sup>1</sup>.
- Individuals can use distinct cognitive control strategies to remove information from WM<sup>2,3</sup>.



- Only suppression in WM (i.e., **maintenance suppression**) reduces access to information<sup>3</sup>.

### RESEARCH QUESTION

**Does maintenance suppression reduce access to emotional information in WM?**

### Emotion, Memory, & Attention

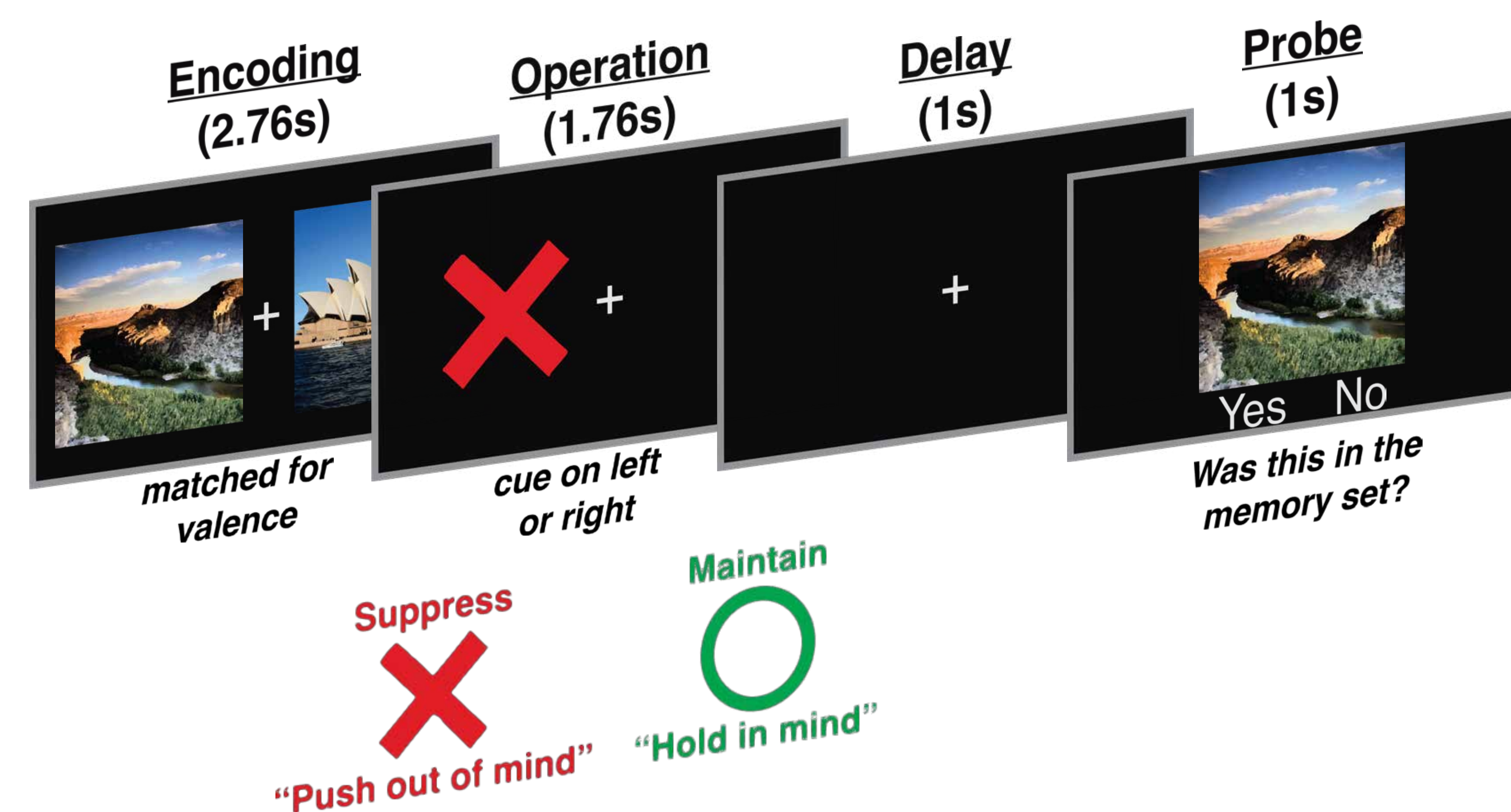
- Emotional (specifically negative) information is prioritized by human memory systems<sup>4</sup>.
- Negative stimuli can grab attention<sup>5</sup> and enhance processing<sup>6</sup>.

### Emotion & Maintenance Suppression?

**Negative information could be more difficult to suppress from WM due to increased salience.**

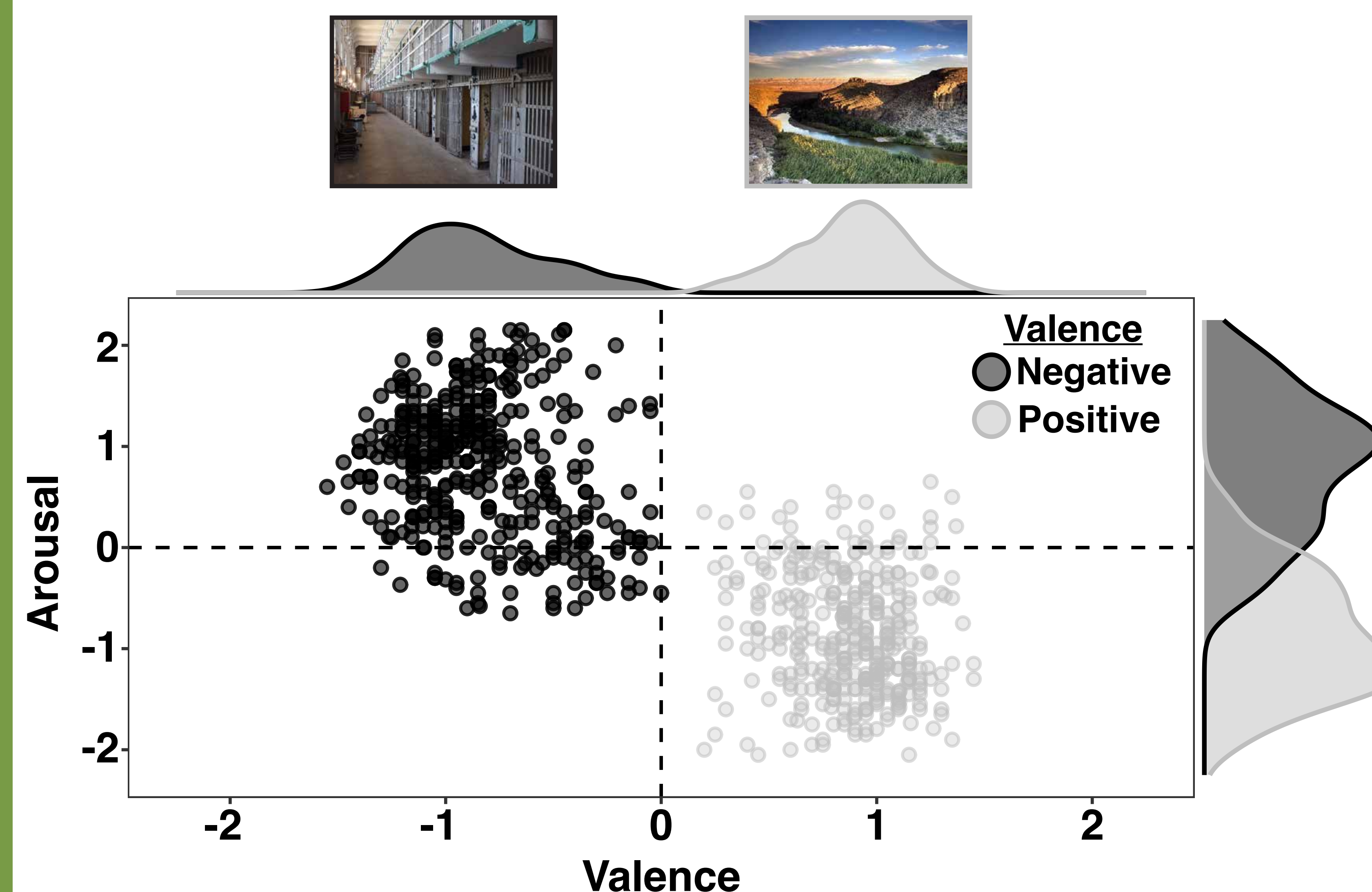
## 2 EXPERIMENTAL DESIGN

### Behavioral Paradigm

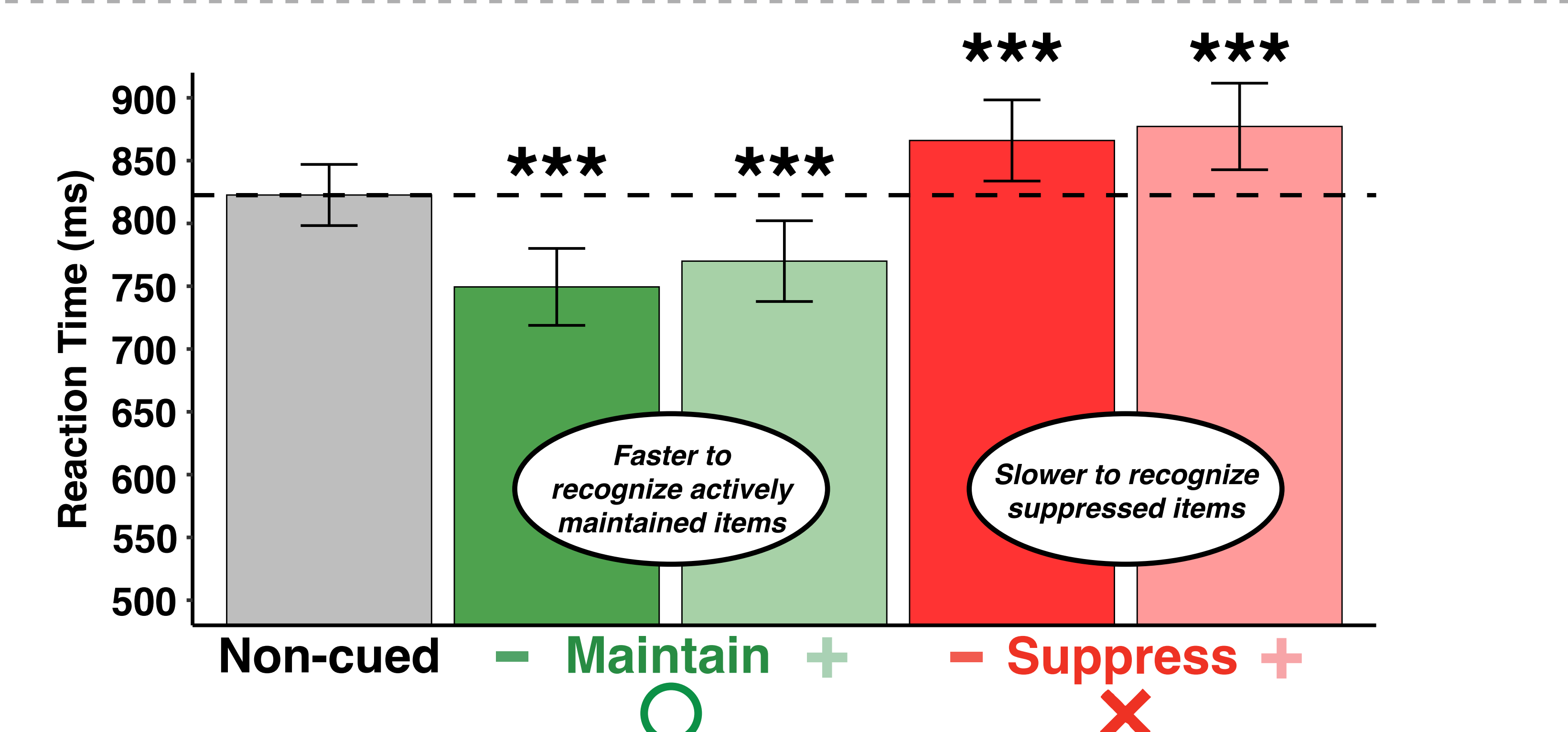
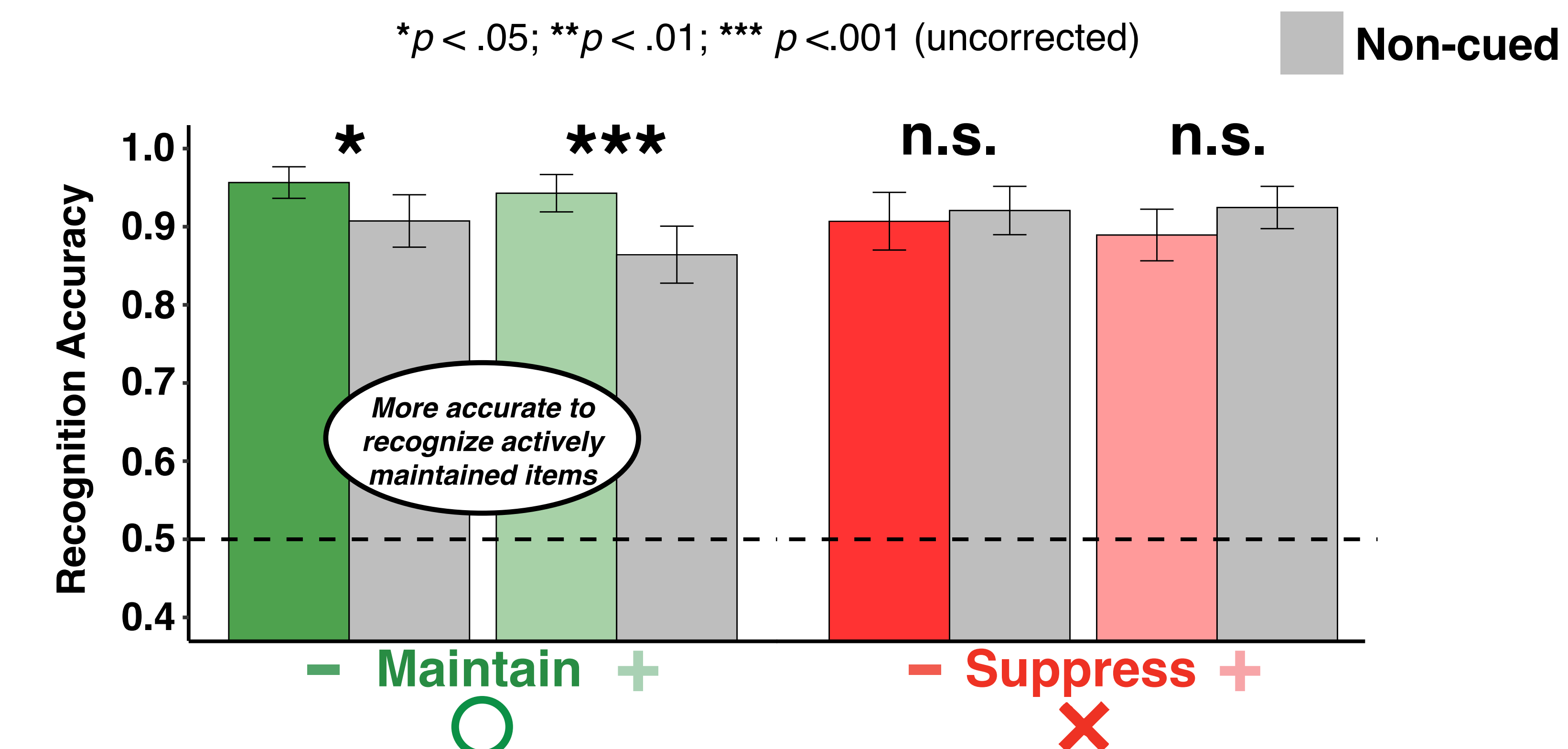


### Emotional Stimuli Selection

Valence/arousal ratings collected via MTurk for N = 726 images



## 3 Results (N = 88)



## 4 Discussion

- Items that were removed via maintenance suppression were slower to be recognized, regardless of valence
- Maintenance suppression can control salient information in WM, suggesting a method to control intrusive thoughts
- Maintenance suppression may reduce access to information by degrading item-specific features (*data not shown*)

**References:**

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