

# Task Load Estimation & Mediation using Psychophysiological Measures

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# Situated Interactions



Not meeting shared expectations  
~ *inconsiderate*



**Breakdown**

Winograd & Flores

Research  
Question

**How can we get multiple agents to  
interact without breakdown?**

# Overview

- Problem Space & Related Work
- Experiment 1: Distraction?
  - Data Collection and Model Building
- Experiment 2: Mediation
  - Model Validation
- Conclusion

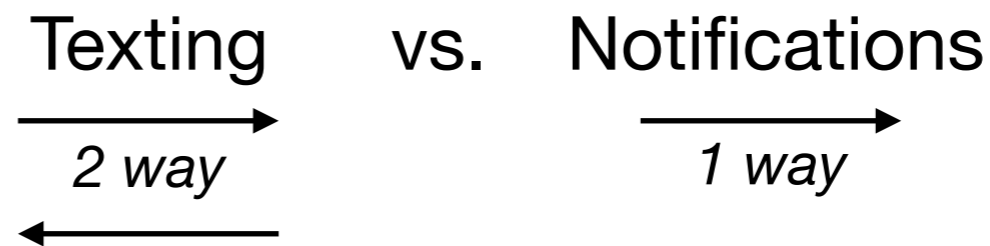
# Problems with Distracted Driving



Talking/Texting while driving is distracting:

- 26% of crashes involve drivers talking and texting

<http://www.nsc.org/DistractedDrivingDocuments/Attributable-Risk-Summary-2012-Estimate.pdf>



1. Are notifications distracting?

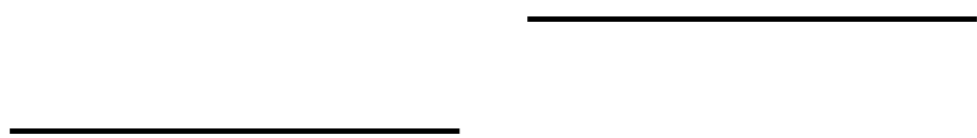
Does modality play a role?

Audio vs. Visual notifications

2. How to mediate distractions?

# Related Work

- Rapidly changing workload



vs.



- Realtime Autonomous Mediation
- External (context) vs. Internal (physiology)
  - Potential advantages: domain independence, personalization, wearables
- Cheap, non-invasive task load estimation

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# E1: Are notifications distracting — *Exp. Design*

## Primary Driving Task

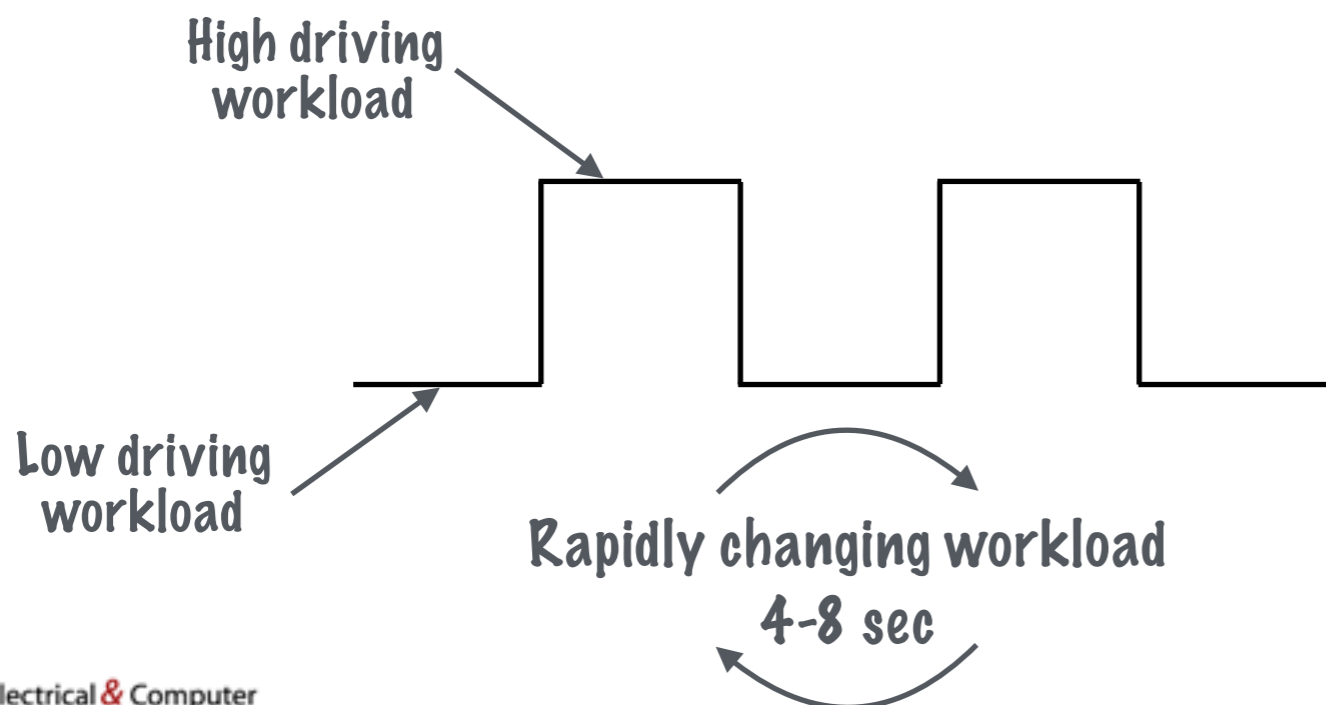
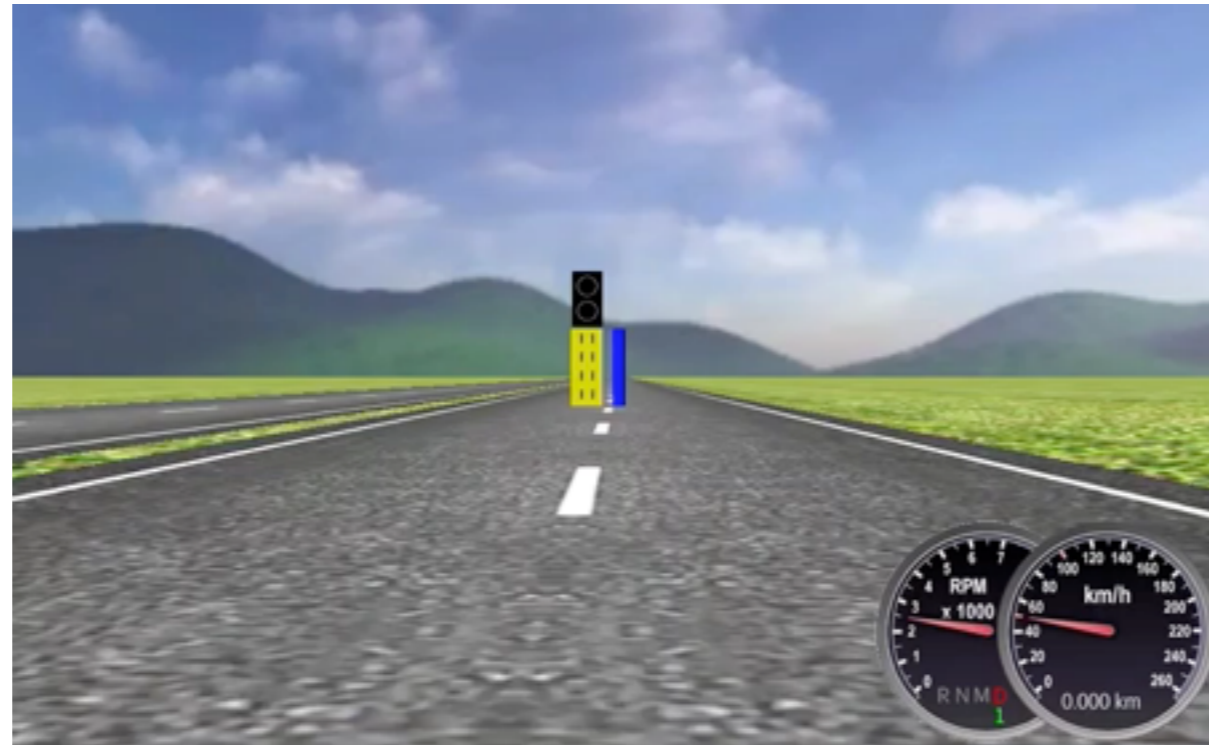
- Rapidly changing workload

Cruising vs. Merging/Pedestrians



# E1: Are notifications distracting – *Exp. Design*

OpenDS  
ConTRe Task:  
(Continuous Tracking  
and Reaction)



## Control Condition:

Send notifications randomly  
(*non-mediated*)

## Test Condition:

Send notifications during low  
workload (*mediated*)



# E1: Are notifications distracting — *Exp. Design*

## Primary Driving Task

- Rapidly changing workload

Cruising vs. Merging/Pedestrians

## Secondary Notification Task

- *Attending* to notification
- *Responding* to notification

Notifications come in indiscriminately  
*“Hey want to get a drink tonight?”*

Drivers moderate when they respond  
at a red light, traffic jam

*“Can’t tonight. How about tomorrow?”*

# E1: Are notifications distracting — *Exp. Design*

## Secondary Task: Complex Span (Reading & Listening)

$2/2 + 1 = 1$

*False*

P

After yelling at the  
game, I knew I would  
have a tall voice

*False*

Q

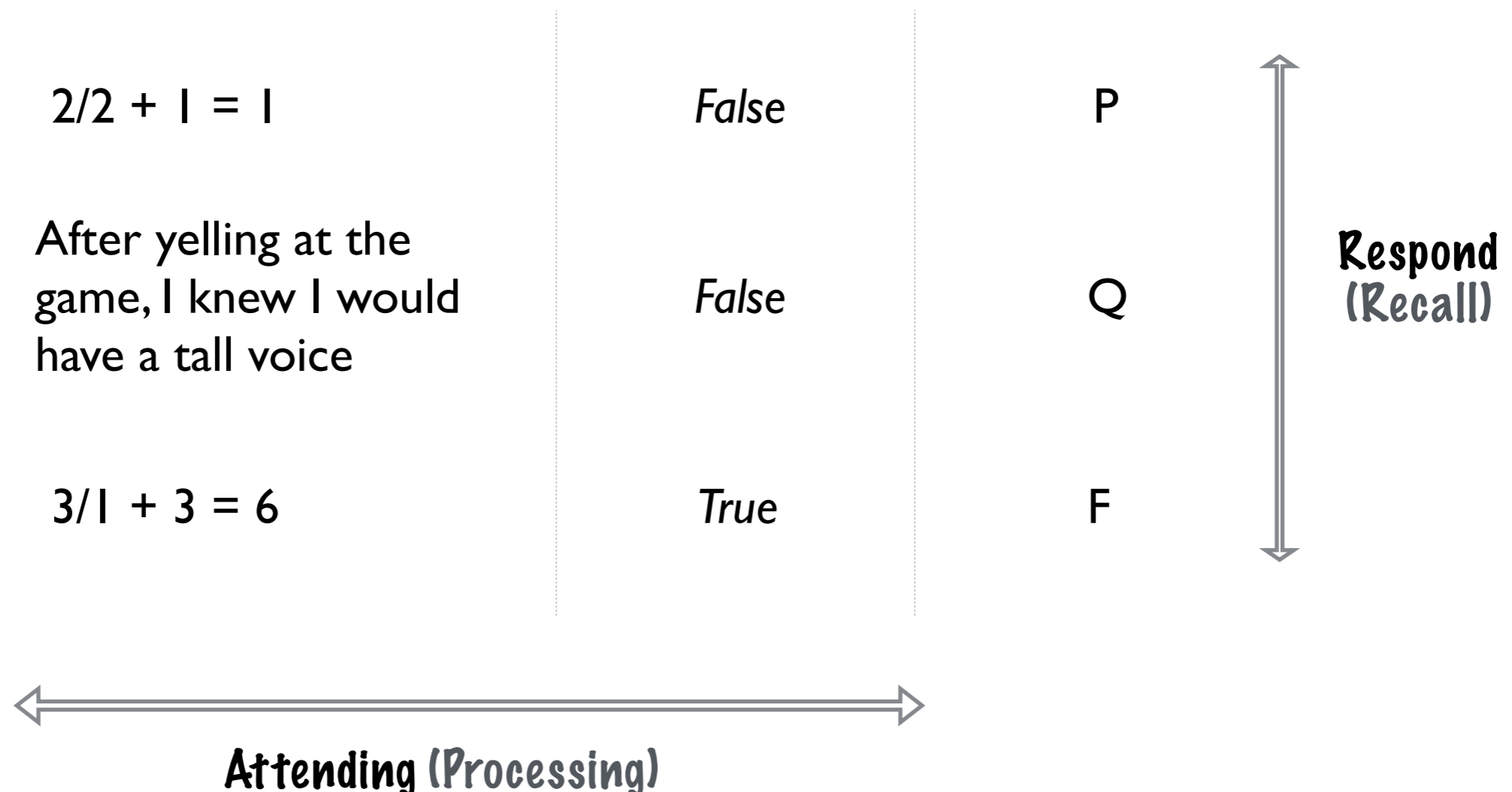
$3/1 + 3 = 6$

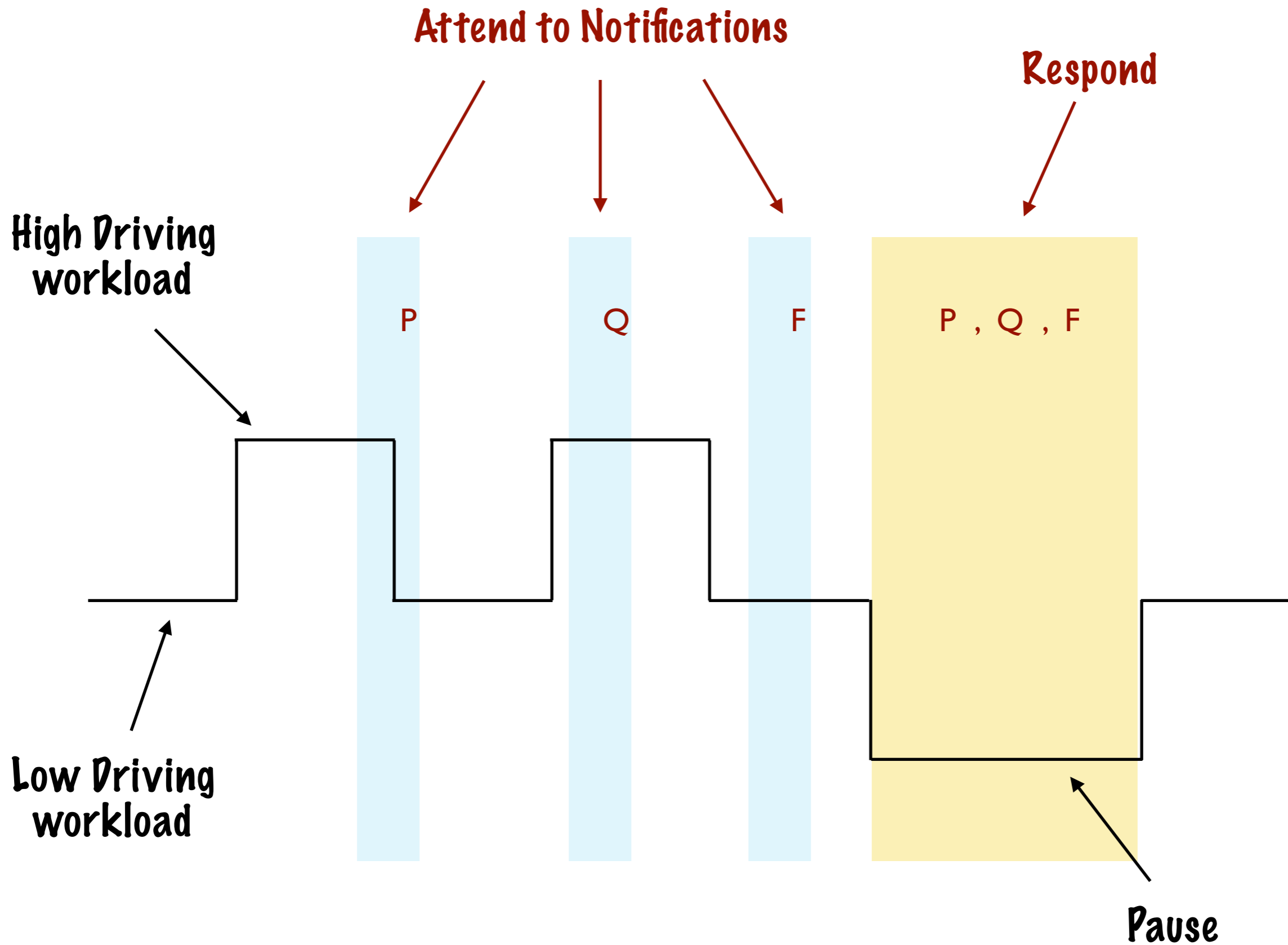
*True*

F

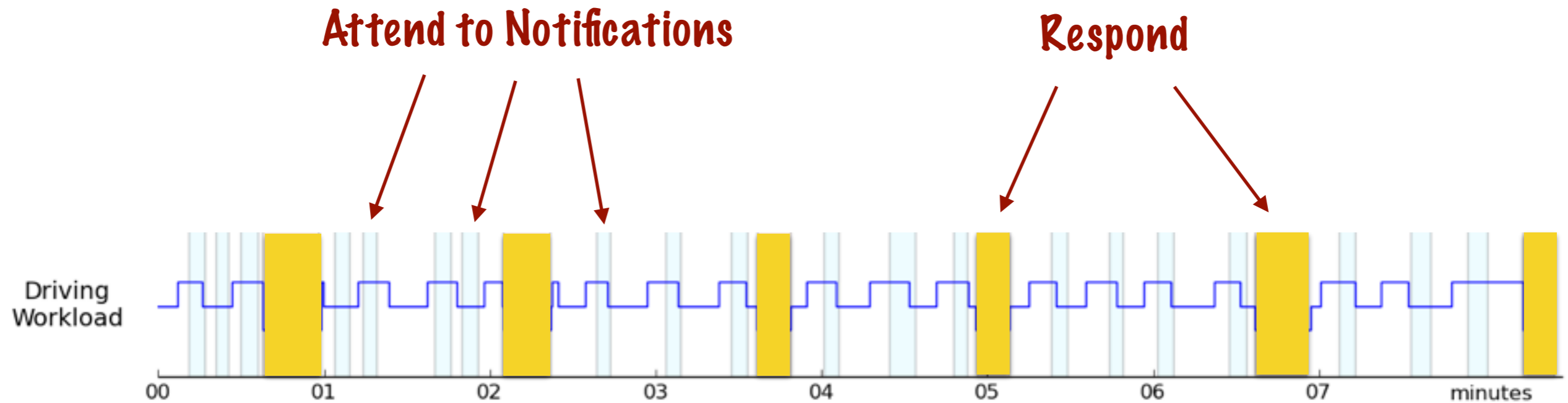
# E1: Are notifications distracting — *Exp. Design*

## Secondary Task: Complex Span (Reading & Listening)







# E1: Are notifications distracting — *Test Setup*



10 Math & 10 Sentence  
notifications interspersed

# E1: Are notifications distracting – *Study & Results*

- **Wizard-of-Oz Study:**
  - 2 (Audio/Video) X 2 (Mediated/Non-mediated)
  - 20 Participants (10M, 10F)
  - Within-subject; counter-balanced; repeated measures

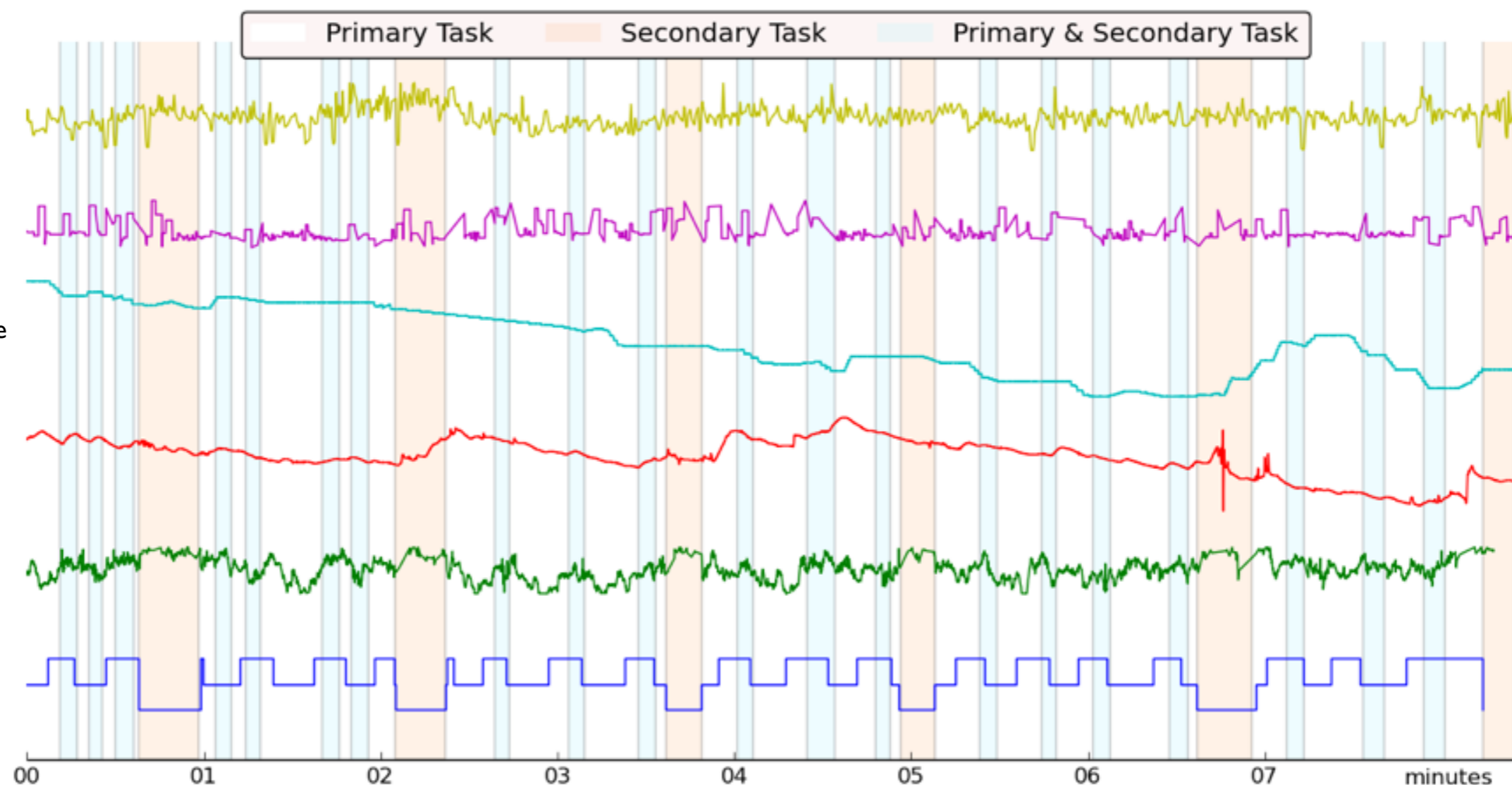



	Mediated	Non-mediated
Audio		
Video		

Notifications are distracting

- **2-Way Multivariate ANOVA**
  - Mediation effect is very significant ( $F=25.47, p<.001$ )
  - Modality effect is not significant

# E1: Are notifications distracting – *Model Building*



Overlapping  
Windows

Extract Statistical  
Features

Multilabel Random  
Forest Classifier

Pupil measure can  
detect when user is  
multitasking with  
AUC ROC of 0.85



# Overview

- Problem Space & Related Work
- Experiment 1: Distraction?
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- **Experiment 2: Mediation**
  - **Model Validation**
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# E2: Autonomous Mediation — *Experiment Design*

## Primary Task: ConTRe

- Rapidly changing workload



## Secondary Task: Gear Change

- Change gear to number displayed



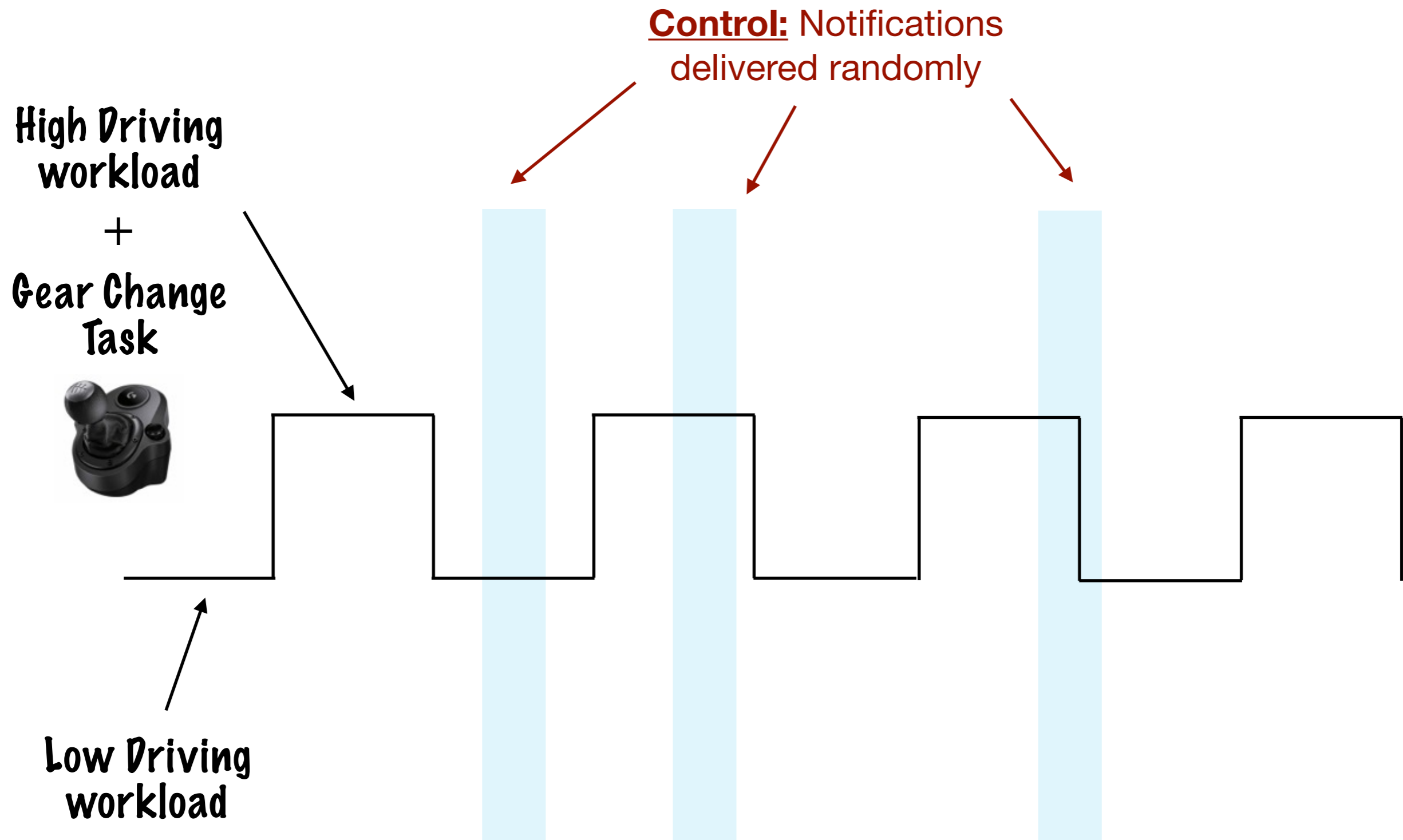
## Mediation Task: Notifications

- Attend to *aural* notifications

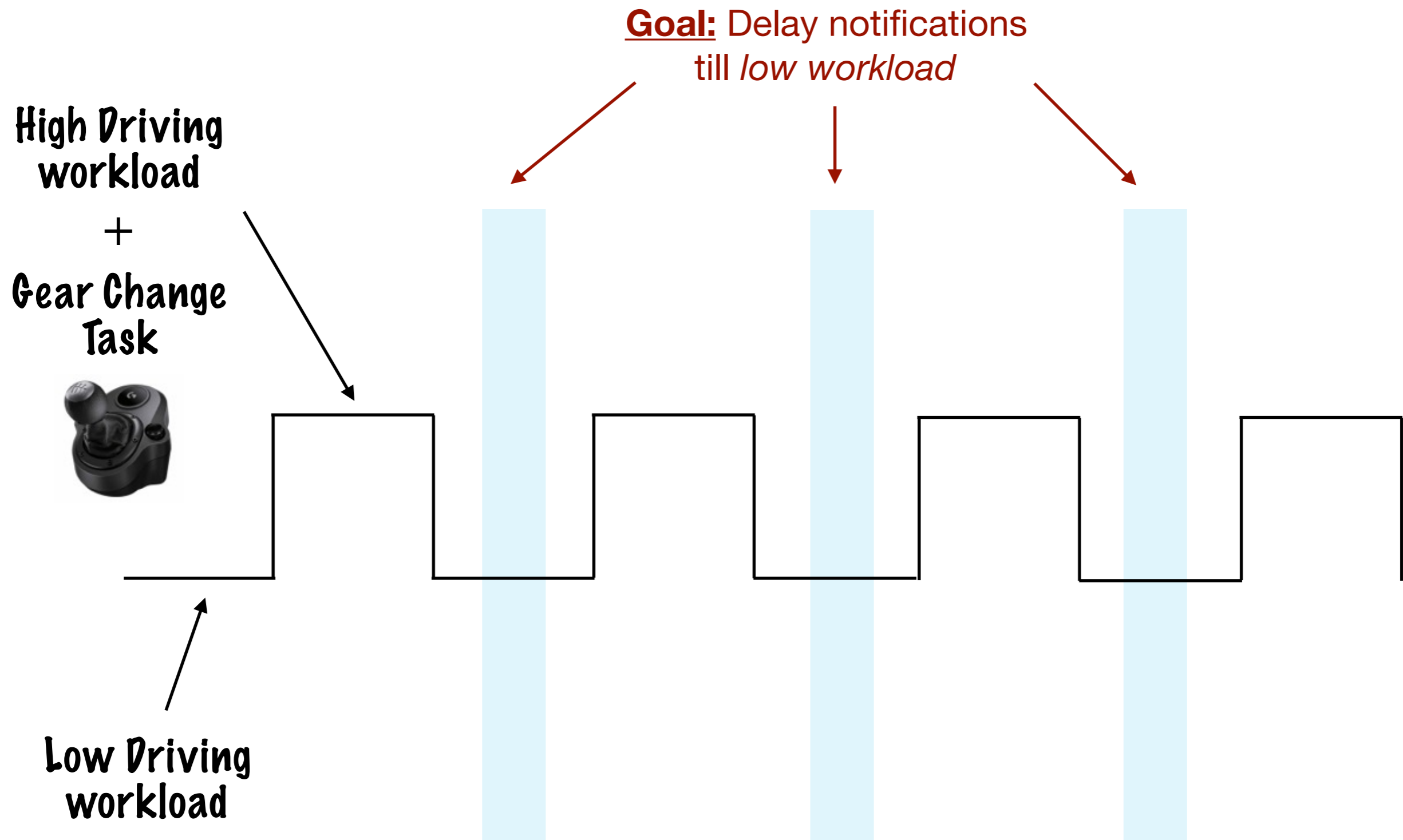
$$2/2 + 1 = 1$$

*False*

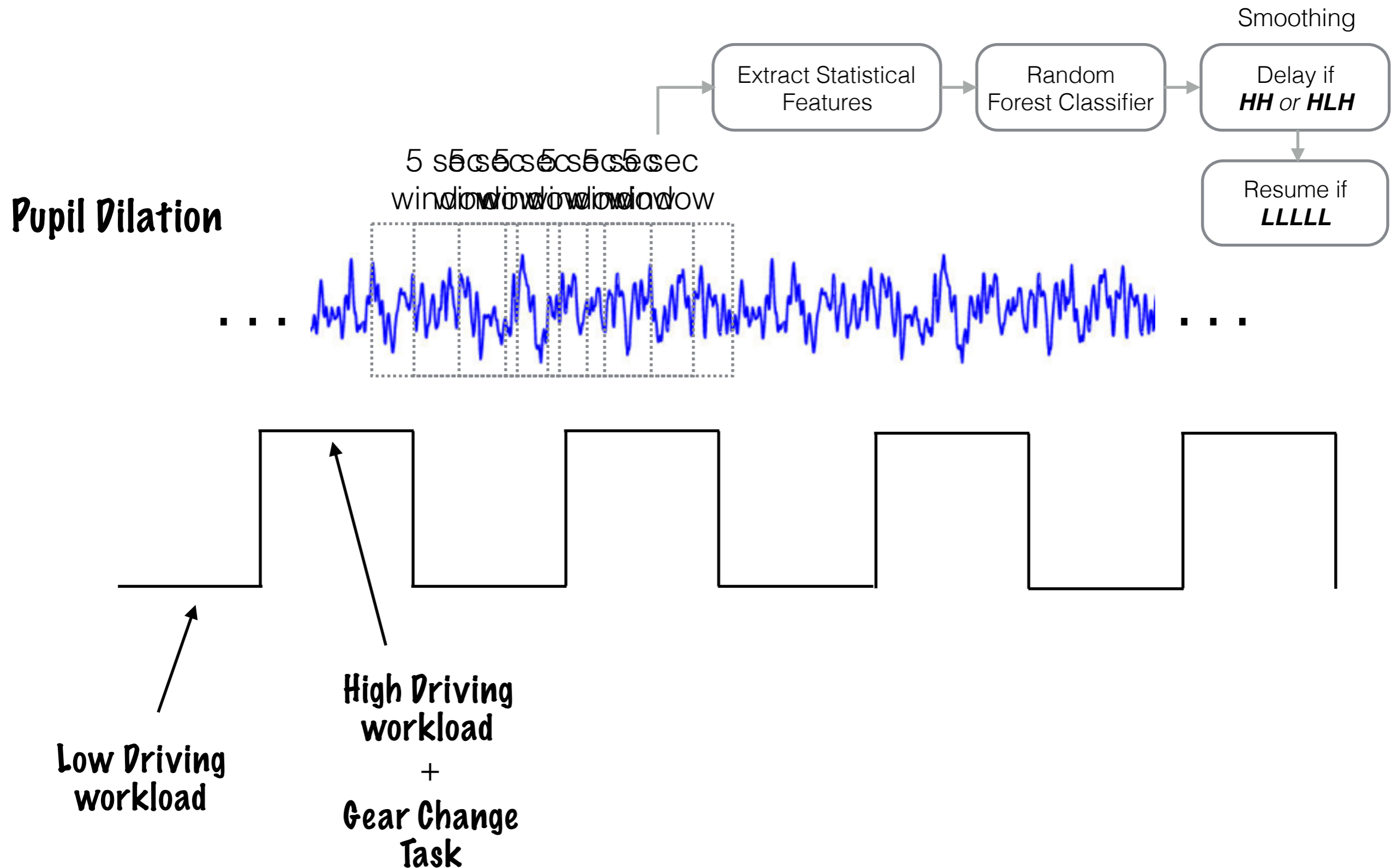
## E2: Autonomous Mediation – *Test Setup*



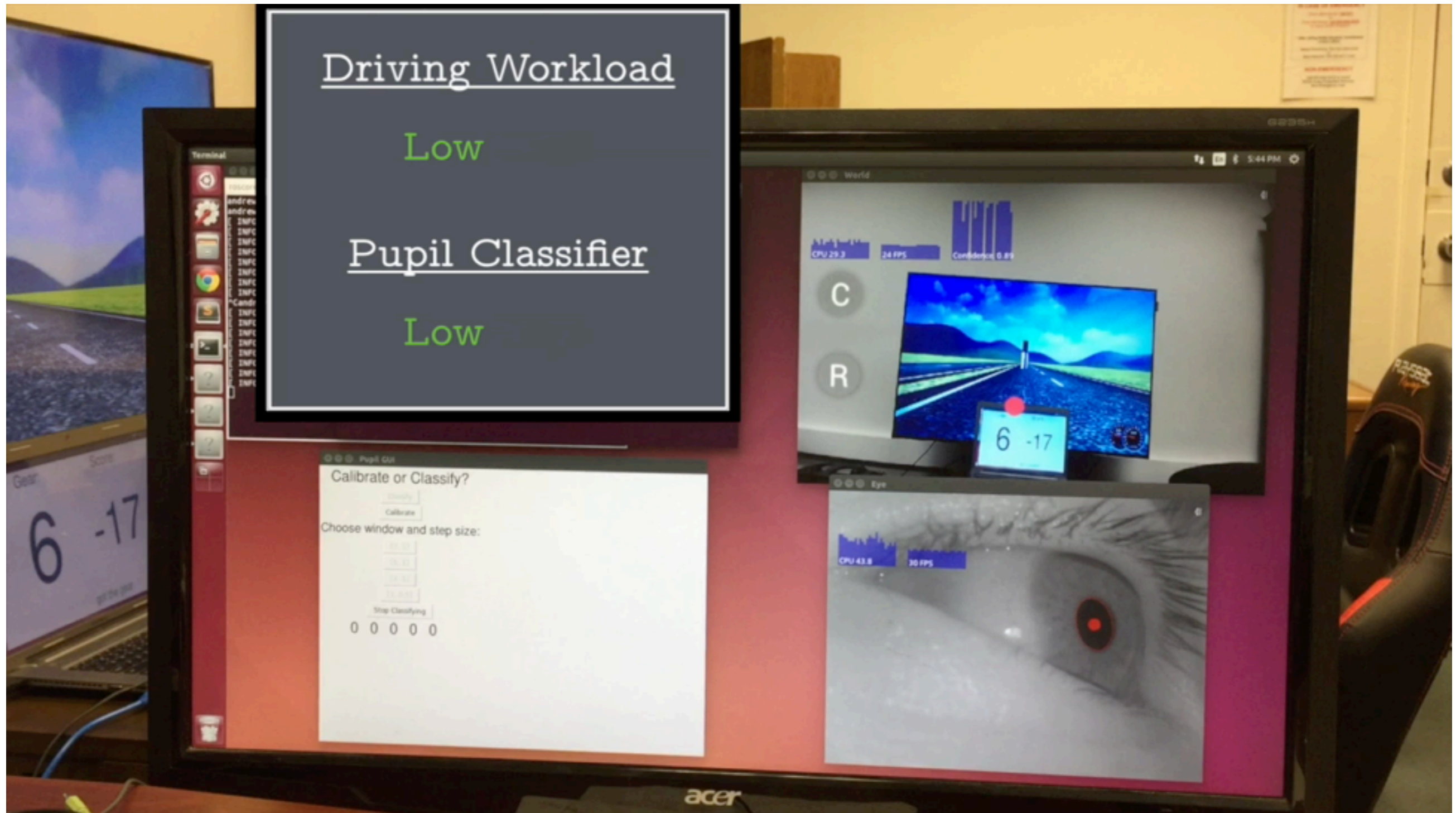
# E2: Autonomous Mediation — *Test Setup*



# E2: Autonomous Mediation – *Algorithm*



## E2: Autonomous Mediation – *Demo*



## E2: Autonomous Mediation — *Study & Results*

- **User Study:**
  - Control: Non-mediated; Test: Mediated autonomously
  - 10 Participants
  - Within-subject; counter-balanced; repeated measures
- **Was mediating agent successful?**
  - ★ **User performance:**
    - No significant difference in primary driving task
    - Significant difference in secondary gear changing task
  - ★ **Agent performance:**
    - Accuracy was 63% (for HH or HLH)
    - If HHH pattern was used, accuracy would be 71%



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- **Conclusion**

# Conclusion

- **Problem:** Distracted driving from notifications
- **Goal:** Rapid task load estimation to mediate notifications
- **Experiment 1:**
  - Notifications are distracting regardless of modality
  - Simultaneously collected data to build models
  - Success with pupil dilation measures
- **Experiment 2:**
  - Demonstrated realtime autonomous mediation
  - Investigated user and agent performance

# Questions?