



The Role of Affect in Mediating the Link Between Political Identity and Motivated Numeracy



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Introduction

What is Politically motivated reasoning?

- When discerning politically laden questions, individuals are motivated to arrive at a conclusion that supports their partisan identity
- Recently, there has been discrepant evidence among participants who are high in trait numeracy
- Our current aim is to investigate the role of affect as a potential mediator that facilitates politically motivated conclusions

Hypotheses

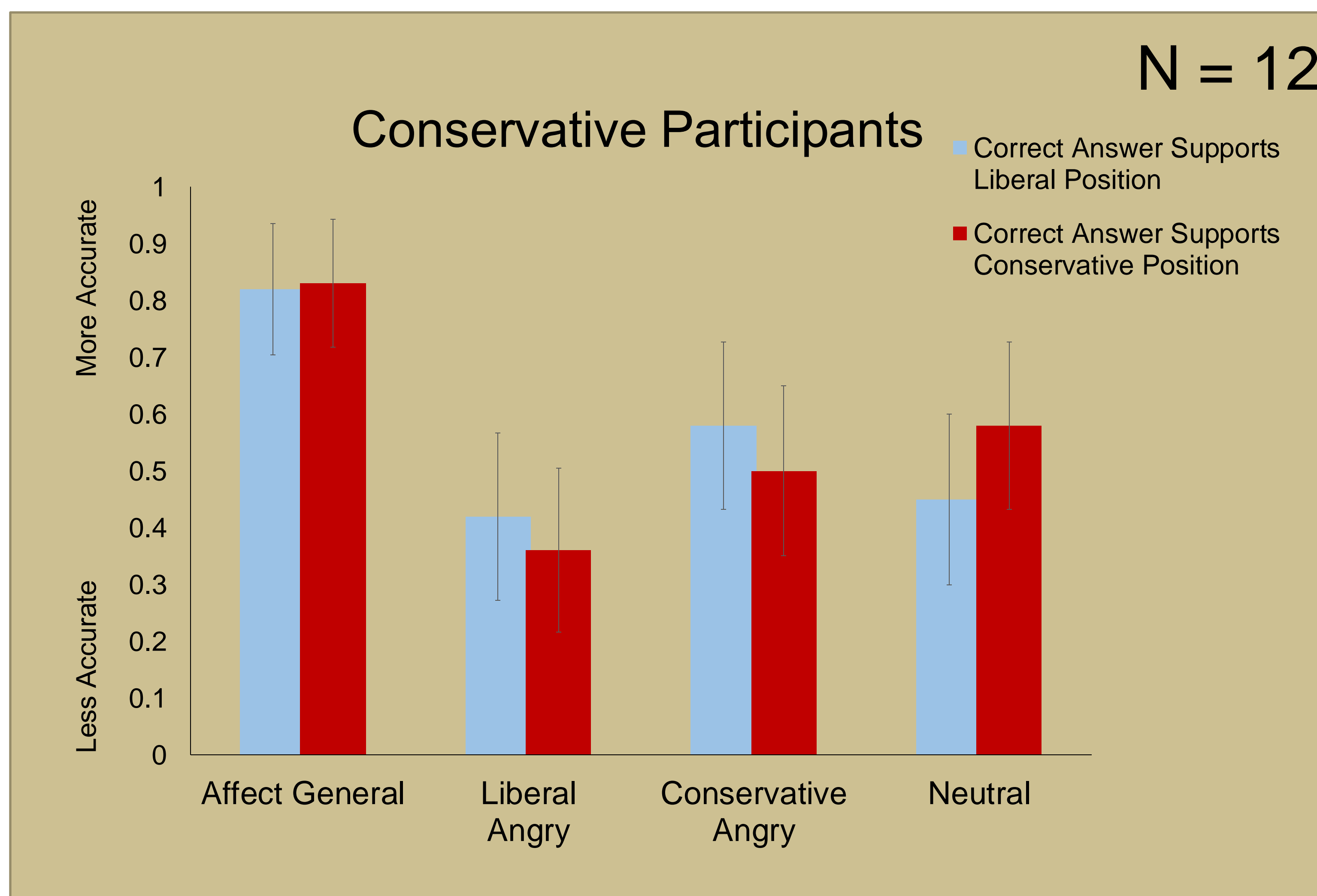
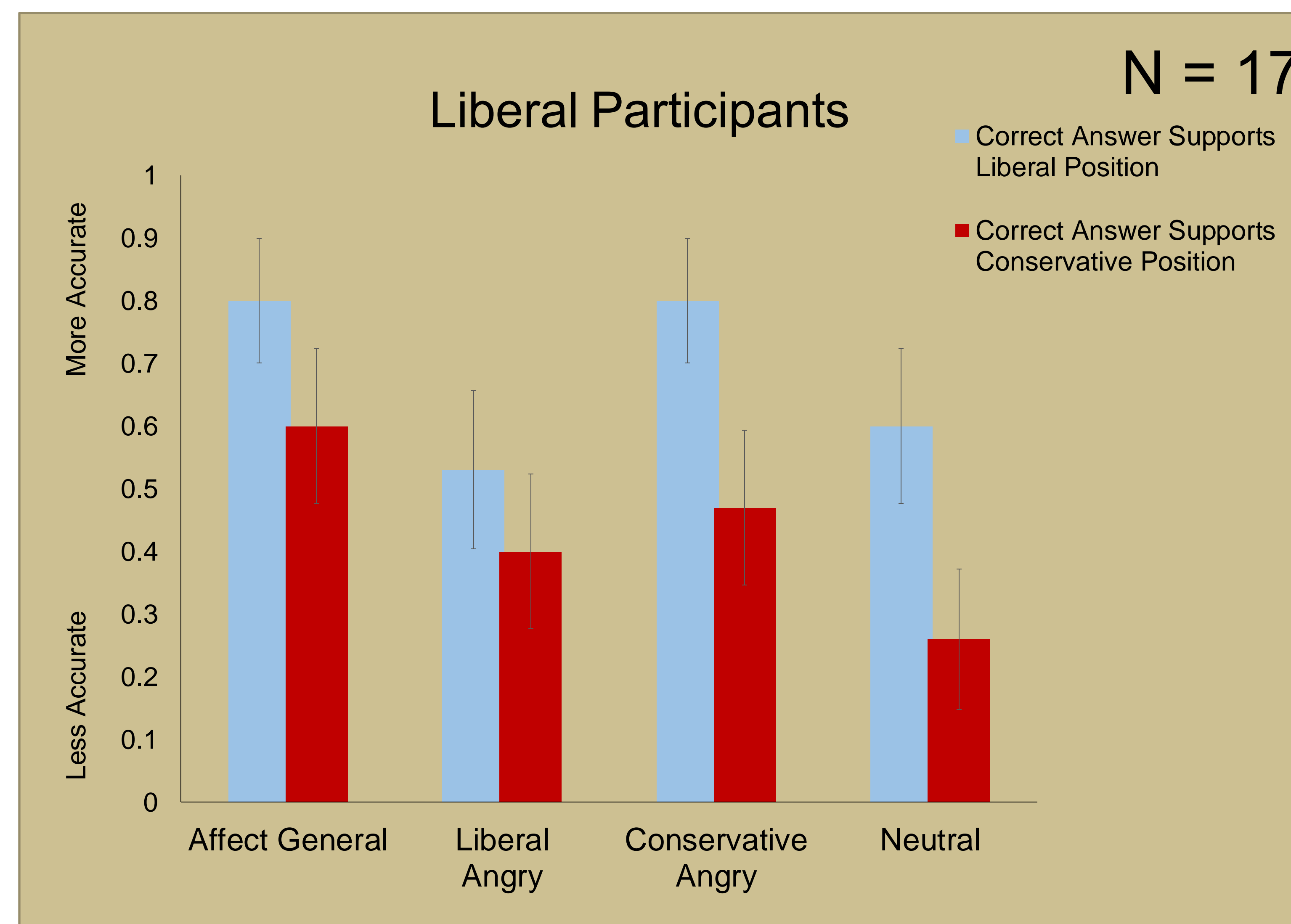
1. When completing emotionally laden numeracy tasks, both high and low cognitively sophisticated individuals will arrive at politically motivated conclusions (supporting IPC). The extent to which participants express negative/high arousal will predict arrival at motivated conclusions.
2. When completing politically laden numeracy tasks, high (vs. low) cognitively sophisticated individuals will arrive at more accurate conclusions (supporting CSA).

Tasks & Procedure

- Participants complete 8 political & 1 non-political numeracy problems
- Problems varied in what kinds of affect they aimed to evoke
- Skin conductance was recorded during problem solving
- Participants completed trait numeracy tasks and demographic questionnaires

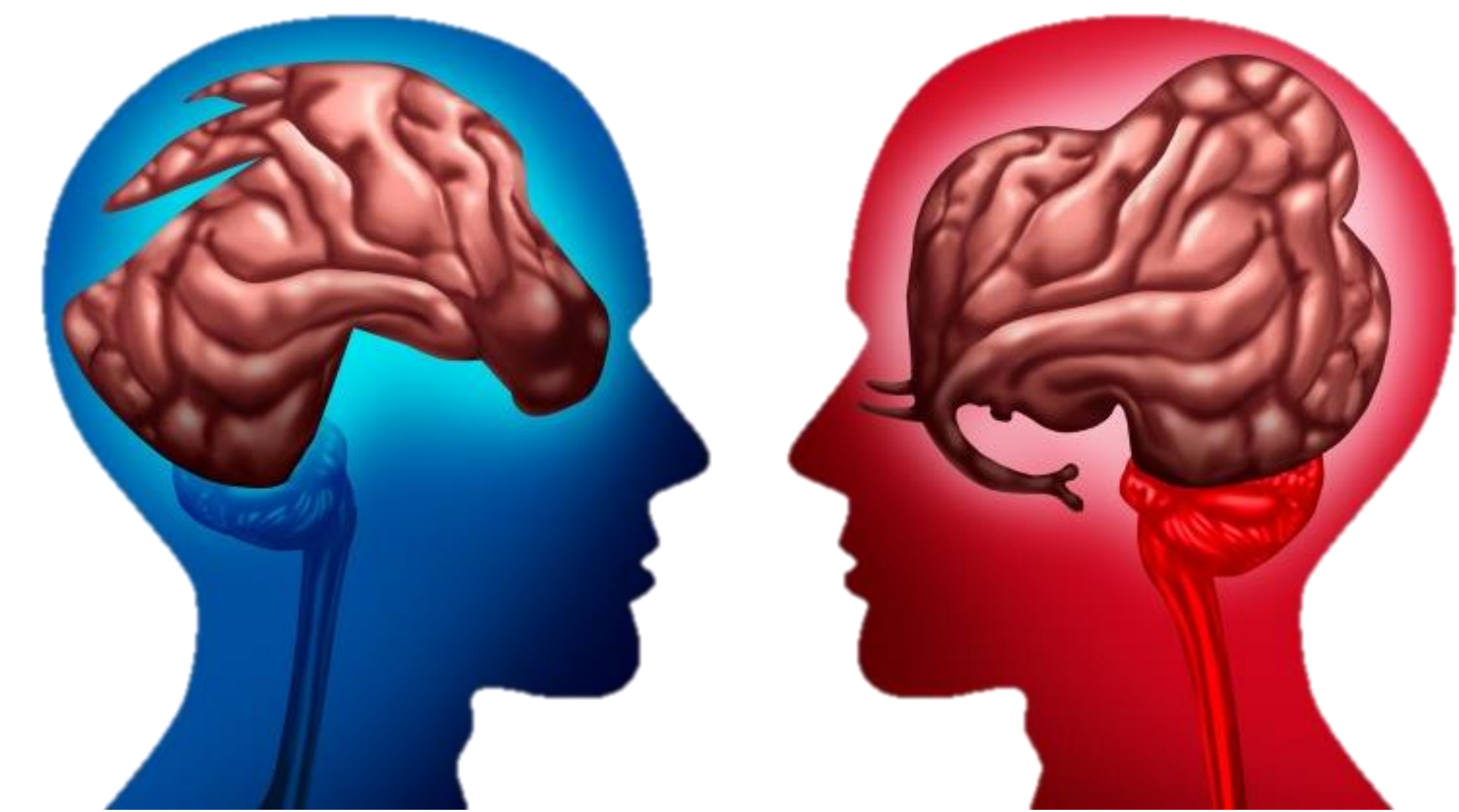
Preliminary Results

Our preliminary results focus mainly on varying degrees of accuracy across problems varying in affective nature:



What's next...

- Affective nature of problem seems to affect accuracy and bias
- We will explore this further and in more detail among a larger sample
- Preliminary results partially support the CSA account
- Among a sufficiently large sample we aim to assess the relative implications of trait numeracy for performance on each type of stimulus
- Further we aim to assess the role of affective arousal on performance for each type of stimuli



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