

THE COINCIDENCE AUDIT

When does a coincidence become evidence?



Based on the PhD research of Luděk Stehlík

THE COINCIDENCE AUDIT

Somewhere beyond Neptune. The Galactic Council of Reason is in session.



Agenda item 7: Earth's membership application.



LUCKY SHIRTS! PSYCHIC PHONE CALLS! THEIR MINDS ARE FULL OF BUGS. REJECT THEM!



NONSENSE. HUMAN MINDS ARE BASICALLY SOUND. THEIR ERRORS MUST COME FROM SOMEWHERE ELSE.



The Great Rationality Debate: are humans hopelessly irrational, or basically rational?

ENOUGH OPINIONS. WE NEED DATA. SEND AN INSPECTOR!

INSPECTOR ODDS REPORTING! MISSION: ARE HUMANS RATIONAL?

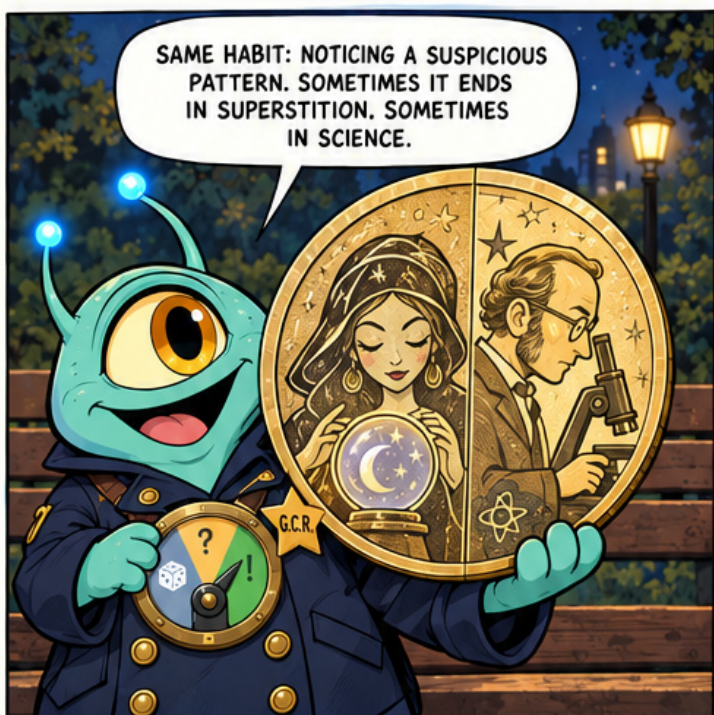


The Coincidence Audit

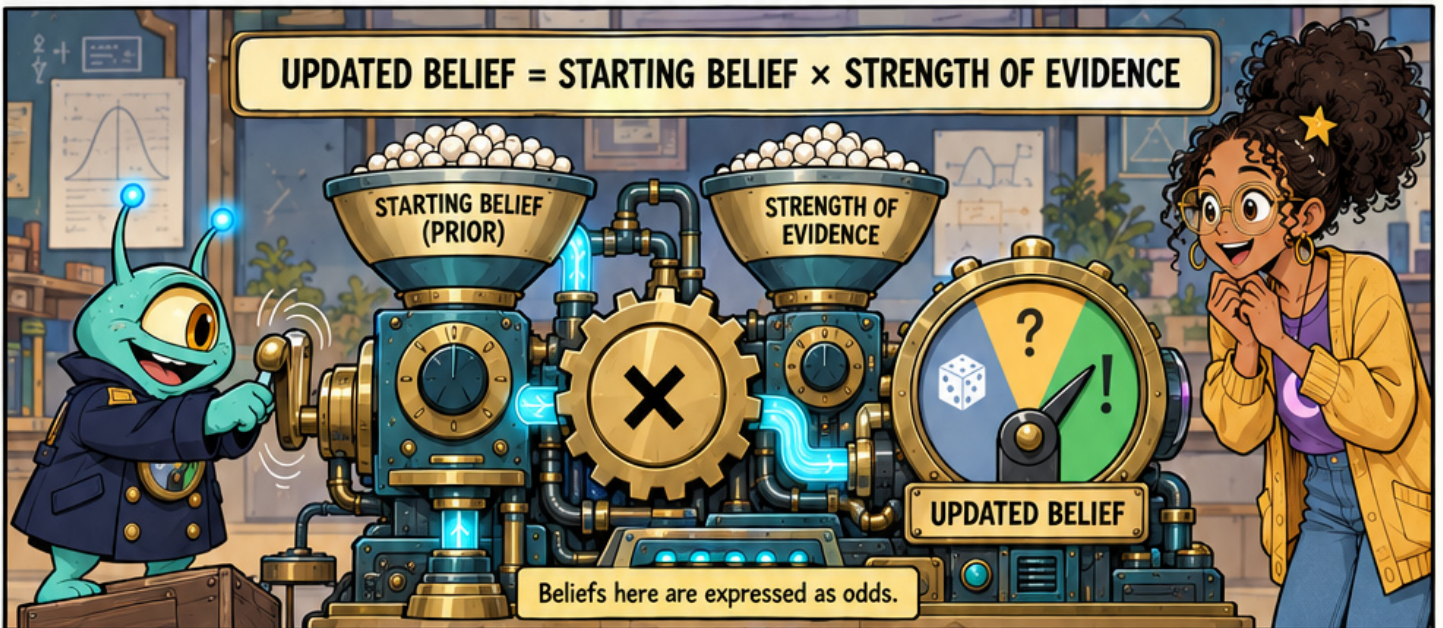
Earth. Prague. 7:42 p.m.



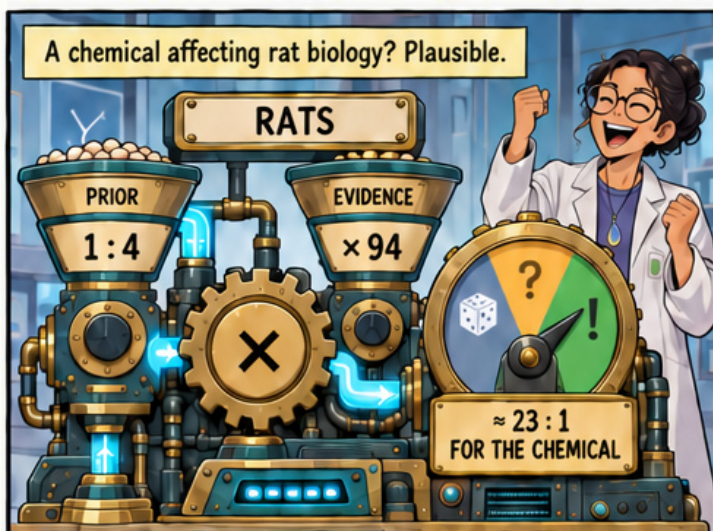
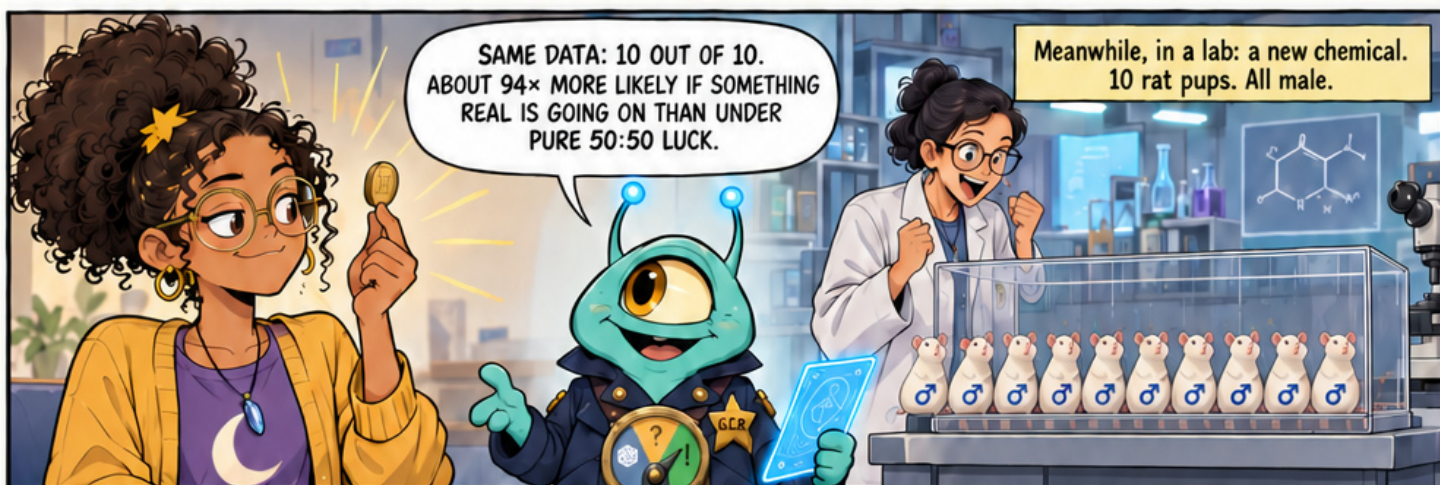
The COINCIDENCE AUDIT



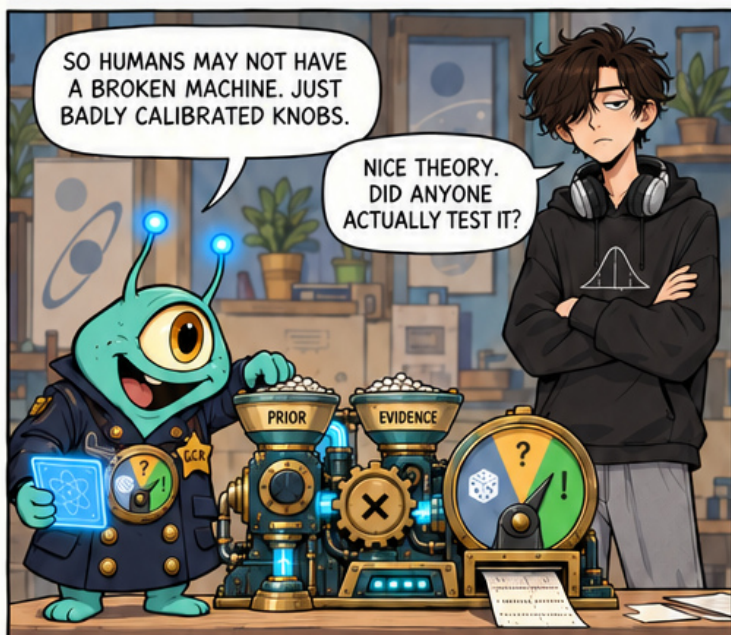
The Coincidence Audit



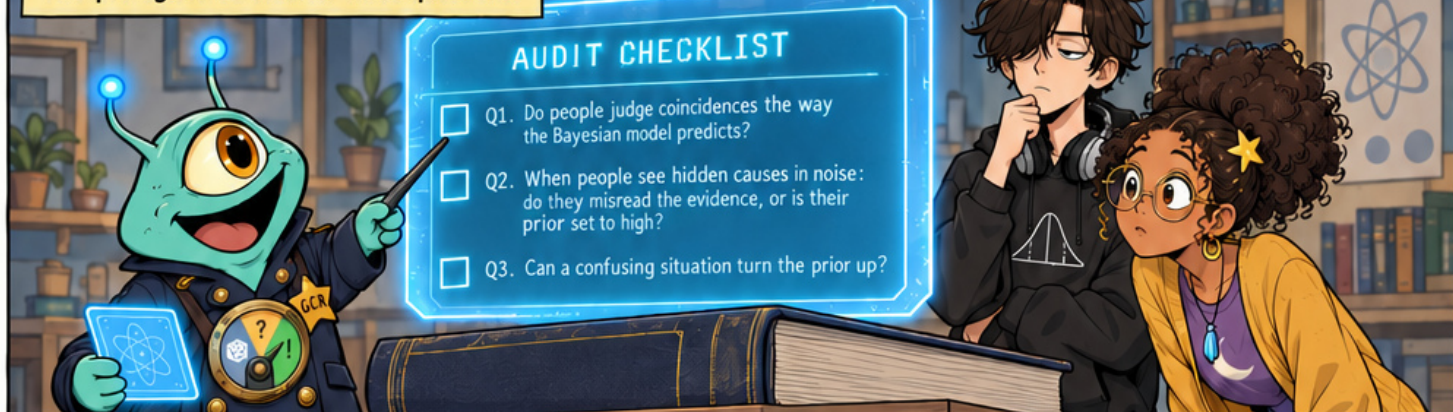
The Coincidence Audit

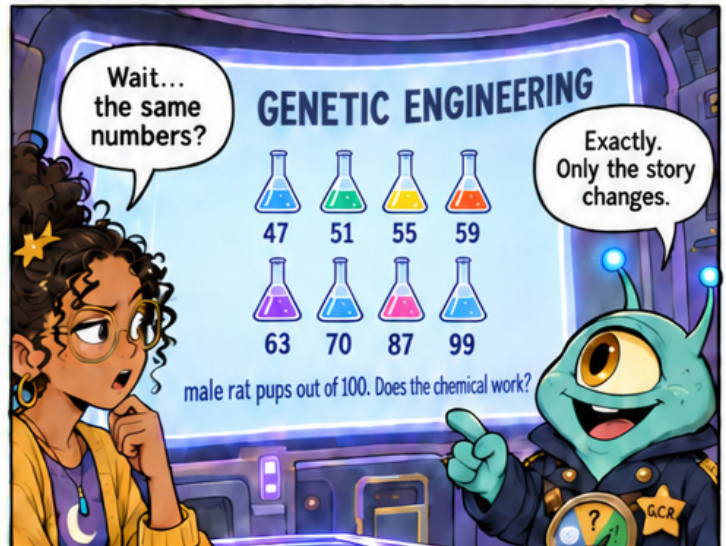
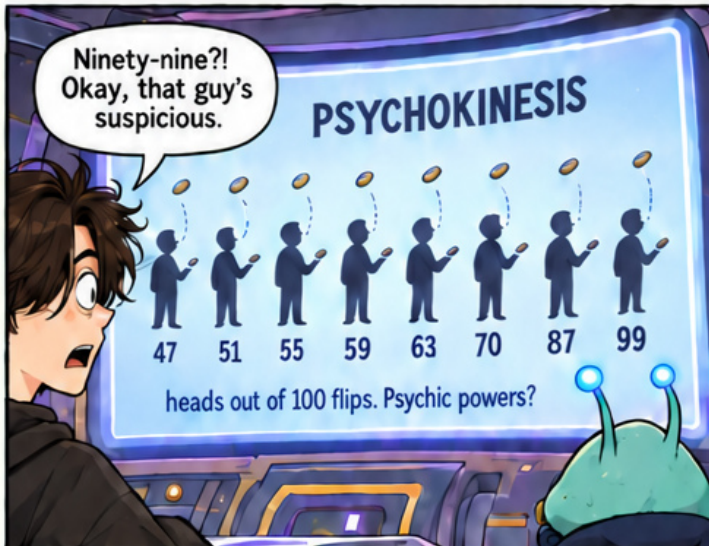


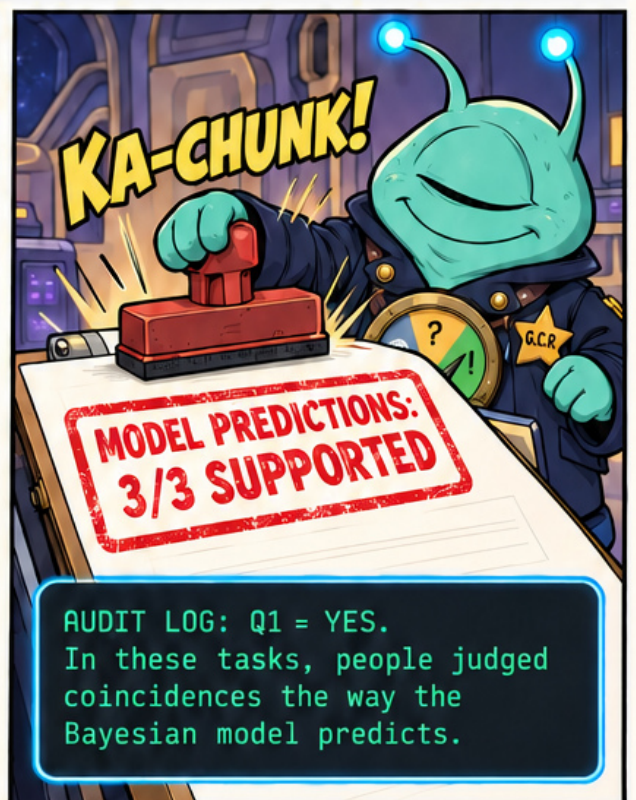
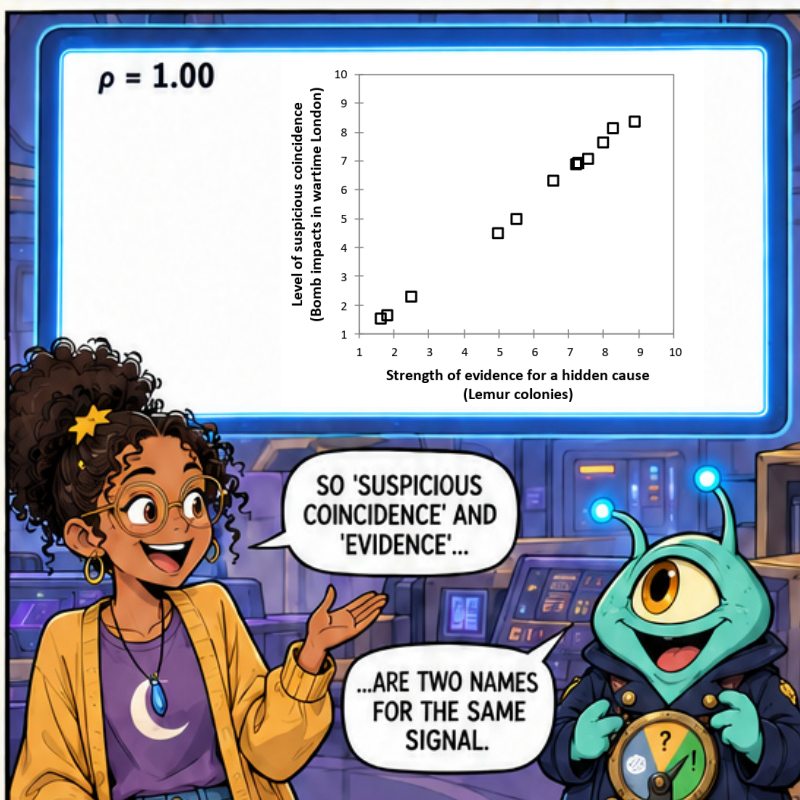
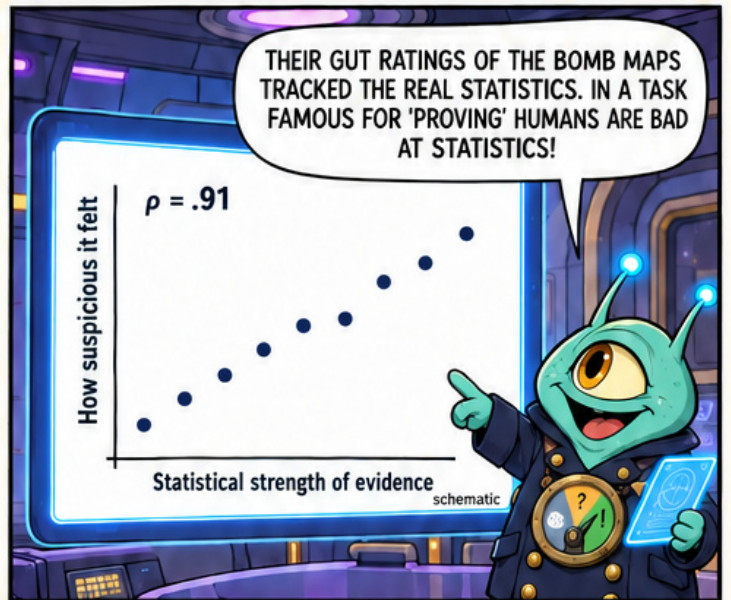
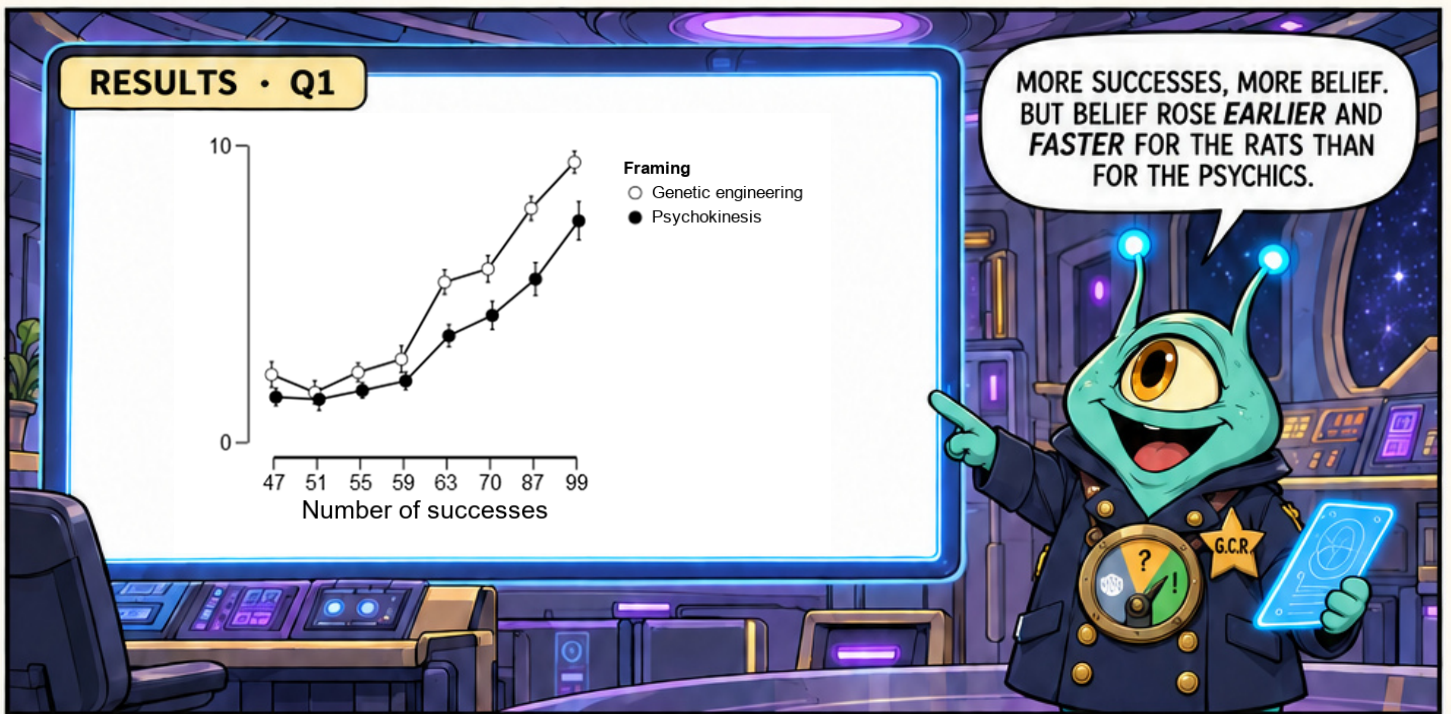
The model's bold claim: superstition and discovery can run on the SAME machine. The difference is the prior setting.

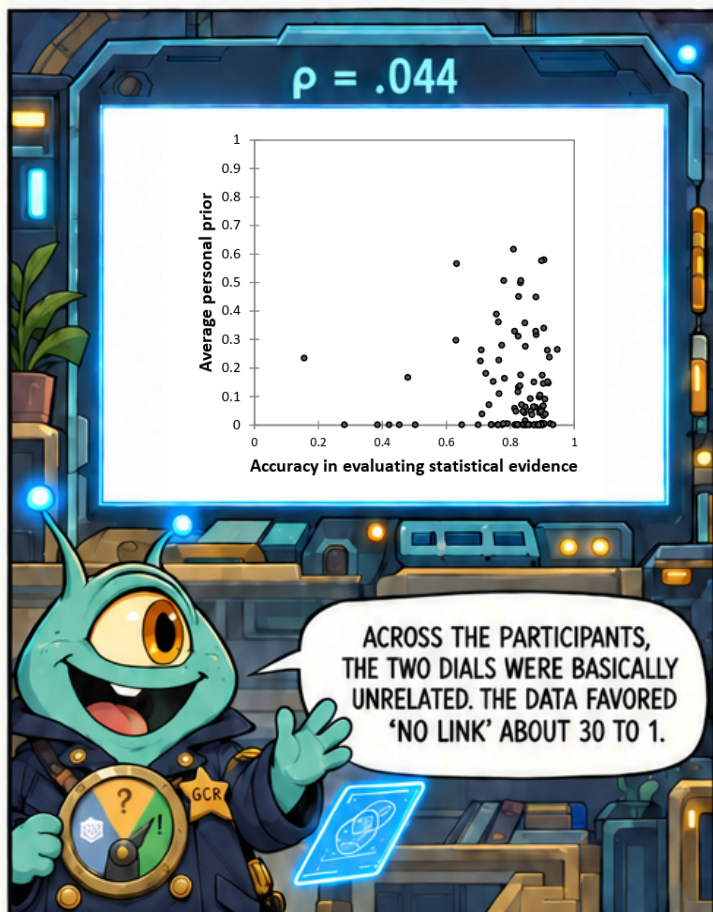
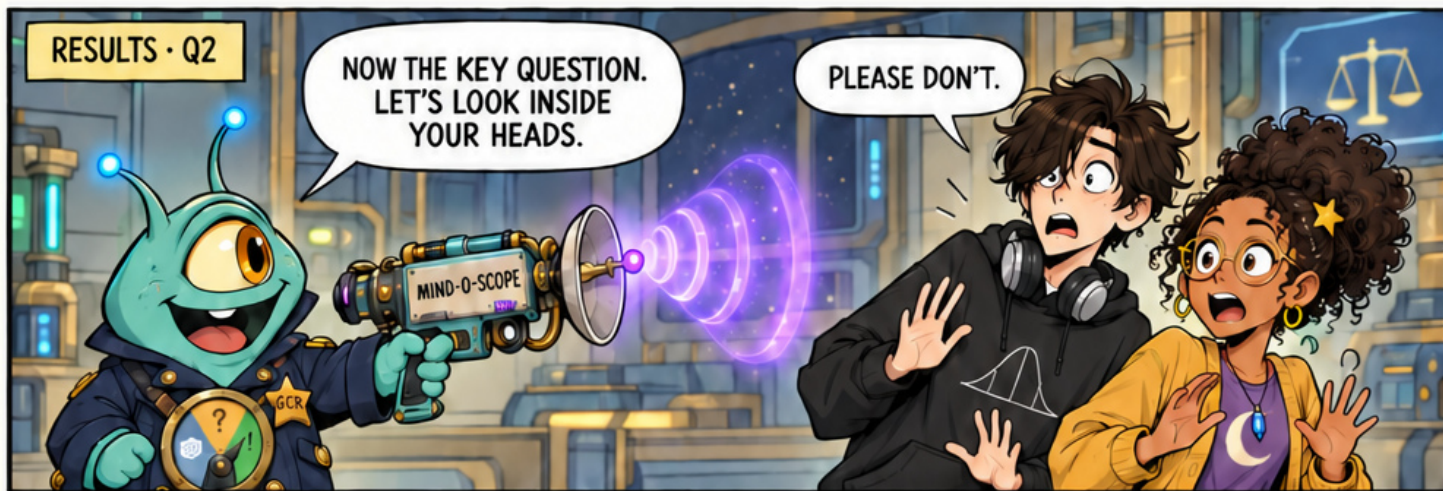


Two preregistered studies. Three questions.









AUDIT LOG: Q2 = Seeing hidden causes does NOT mean misreading evidence. Prime suspect: the PRIOR.

RESULTS · Q2 (continued)

People open to mind powers were also more open to rat chemicals. Evidence reading showed no such stable pattern.

PRIOR OPENNESS:
consistent across stories =
a personal trait



EVIDENCE READING:
no stable differences
between people



And mainly the prior dial, not evidence reading, was linked to other signs of (ir)rational thinking.

HIGHER PRIOR OPENNESS WENT WITH...



less reflective thinking



more thinking-bias errors



less critical, impartial thinking



more trust in gut feelings



more superstition & belief in precognition

small-to-moderate links

Hey! I object to the crystal ball.

Objection noted. Objections are not evidence.

Exploratory hint: the dial seemed linked more to intellectual skepticism than to unusual experiences. A hypothesis for the next study.

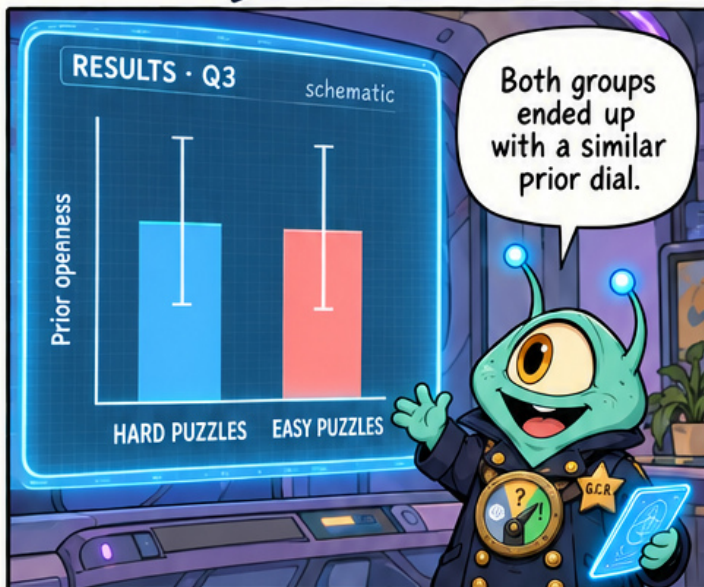
SKEPTIC

MYSTIC

So the real question isn't "Can this person recognize evidence?" It's "How MUCH evidence do they need before accepting an unusual explanation?"



The Coincidence Audit



AUDIT LOG:

Q3 = Unclear.
No effect found, but no proof of 'no effect' either.



