

CONTROL QUESTION TEST (CQT)

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Control Question Test (CQT): A Review of Theory and Application

Abstract

The Control Question Test (CQT) is a psychophysiological measure developed to detect deception. The CQT utilizes physiological responses to control questions as a means of detecting deception. This review provides an overview of the CQT, including its theoretical underpinnings, research findings, and application. The CQT has been found to be an effective measure for detecting deceptive responses, with an overall accuracy rate of approximately 70-75%. Despite this success, the CQT has been subject to criticism and should be used in tandem with other investigative techniques.

Introduction

In criminal investigations, the ability to accurately detect deception is paramount. Unfortunately, deception is not always easily discernible from truth. To this end, numerous methods have been developed to detect deception. One such method is the Control Question Test (CQT). The CQT is a psychophysiological measure designed to detect deceptive responses by measuring physiological responses to control questions. This review provides an overview of the CQT, including its theoretical underpinnings, research findings, and application.

Theoretical Underpinnings

The CQT is based on the assumption that deceptive responses elicit a stronger physiological response than truthful responses (Lykken, 1959). This assumption is based on the notion of "emotional arousal" - the idea that deceptive responses are more likely to elicit a heightened emotional response than truthful responses. This emotional response is then manifested as an increased physiological response, which can then be measured.

Research Findings

Research on the CQT has consistently demonstrated its efficacy in detecting deception. Studies have found an overall accuracy rate of approximately 70-75% (Vrij & Semin, 2008). However, research has also identified some potential limitations of the CQT. First, the CQT is vulnerable to countermeasures, such as suspect coaching or the use of mental distraction techniques (Vrij & Semin, 2008). Additionally, the CQT is prone to false positives, which can lead to false accusations (Vrij & Semin, 2008).

Application

Despite its potential limitations, the CQT can be used as an effective tool for detecting deception. However, it is important to note that the CQT should be used in tandem with other investigative

techniques, such as interviewing and interrogations. The CQT can provide an objective measure of deception, but it should not be used as the sole means of detecting deception.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the CQT has been shown to be an effective means of detecting deception, with an overall accuracy rate of approximately 70-75%. However, the CQT is vulnerable to countermeasures and false positives, and should be used in tandem with other investigative techniques.

References

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