

Fact-Checking the 2016 Presidential Election & the Role of Selective Exposure

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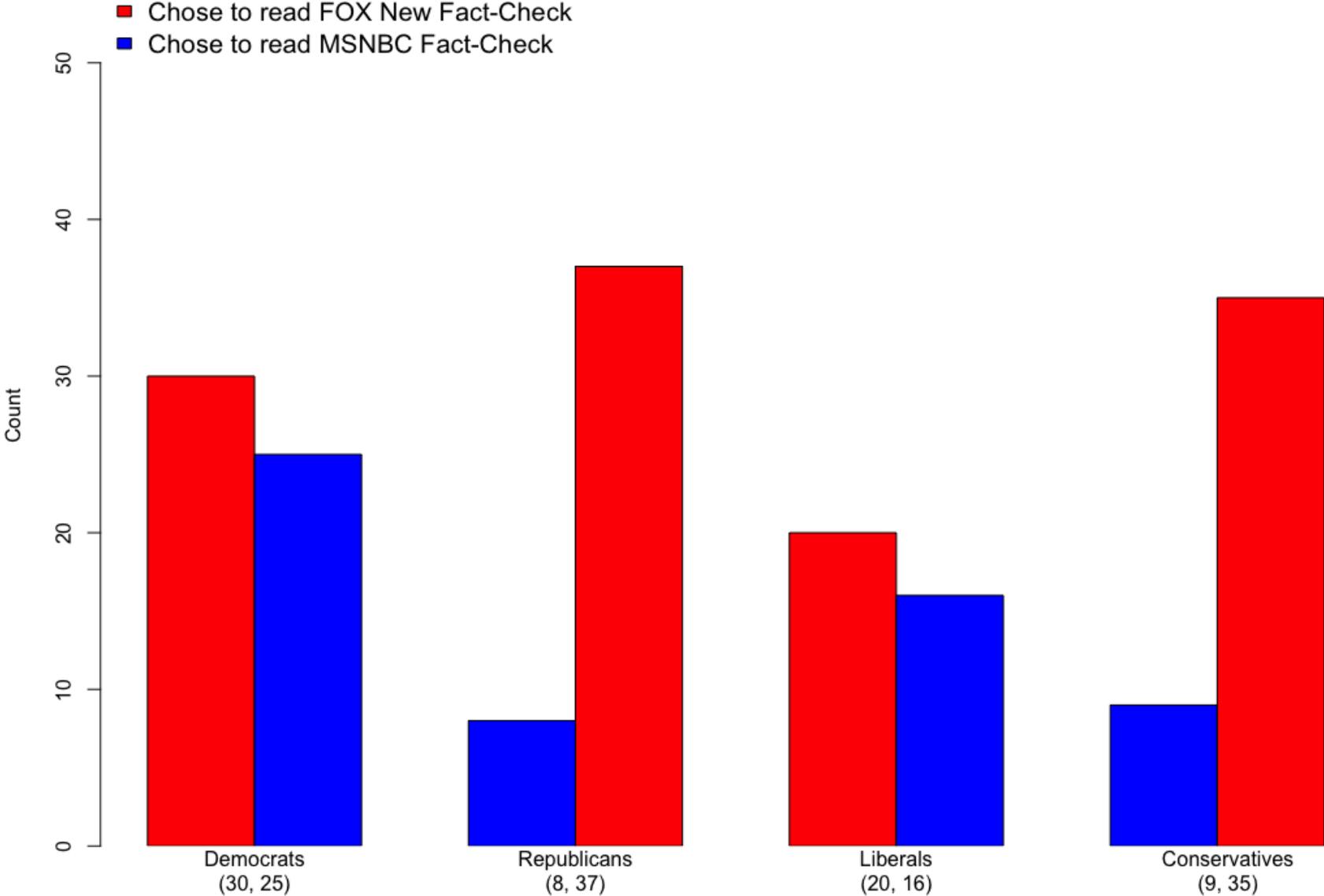
Research Question

- Do partisans and ideologues selectively expose themselves to congruent fact-check sources?
- How are partisans and ideologues influenced by exposure to congruent and incongruent fact-checks messages?

Data

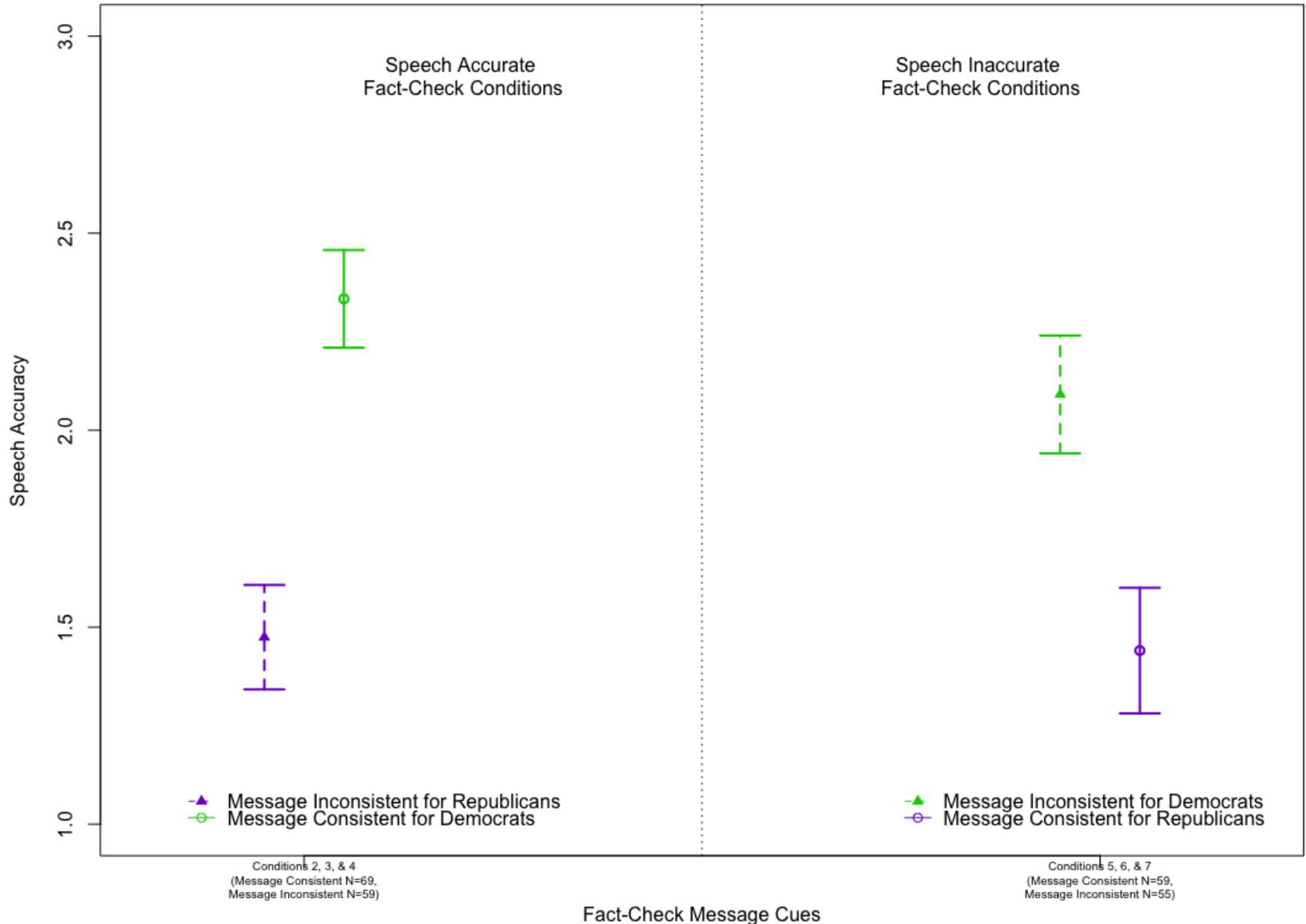
- Two wave, nationally representative panel study:
 - Wave 1: 10/12/16-10/16/16
 - Wave 2: 10/24/16-11/4/16
 - N=961
 - Subjects viewed edited version of Hillary Clinton or Donald Trump's economic speech.
 - Randomly assigned to a fact-check indicating the speech was Mostly True or Mostly False (Source Cue: PolitiFact, FOX, MSNBC)
 - Conditions 15-18 respondents were given the option to choose the source of the fact-check.

Fact-Check Source Choice by Party ID and Ideology



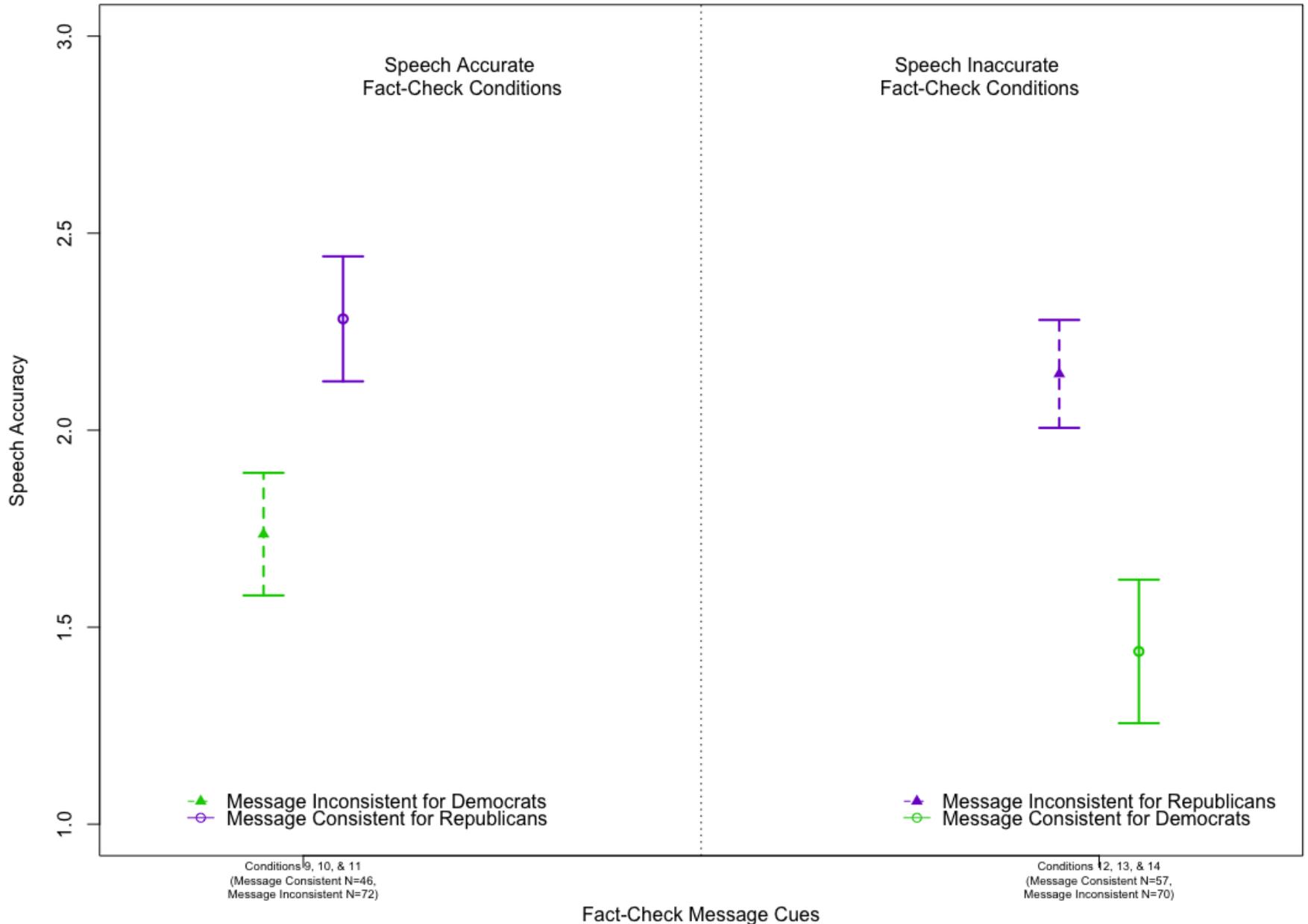
Party Identification and Ideology are measured on a 3-point scale where 1 indicates that the respondent is a Democrat/liberal and 3 indicates the respondent is a Republican/conservative. Numbers in paranthese on the X-axis indicate the number of subjects who chose the consistent/inconsistent fact-check source. Data comes from conditions 15, 16, 17, & 18 where respondents chose the fact-checks source.

Respondent's Assessment of Hillary Clinton's Speech Accuracy by Fact-Check Message and Message Consistency



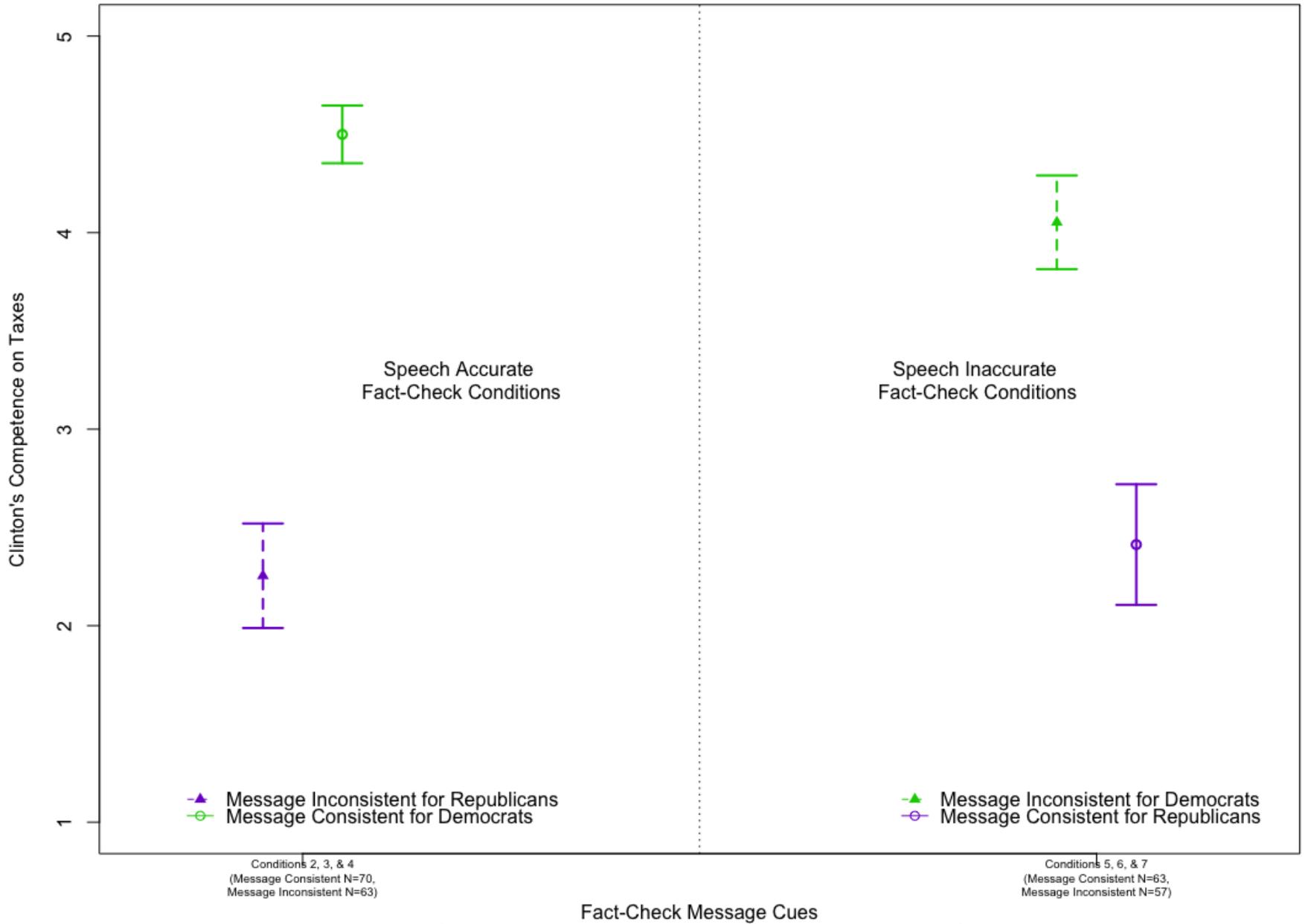
Accuracy is measured on a three point scale where 1 is not accurate at all and 3 is very accurate. Means are presented along with 95% confidence intervals.

Respondent's Assessment of the Accuracy of Donald Trump's Speech by Fact-Check Message and Message Consistency



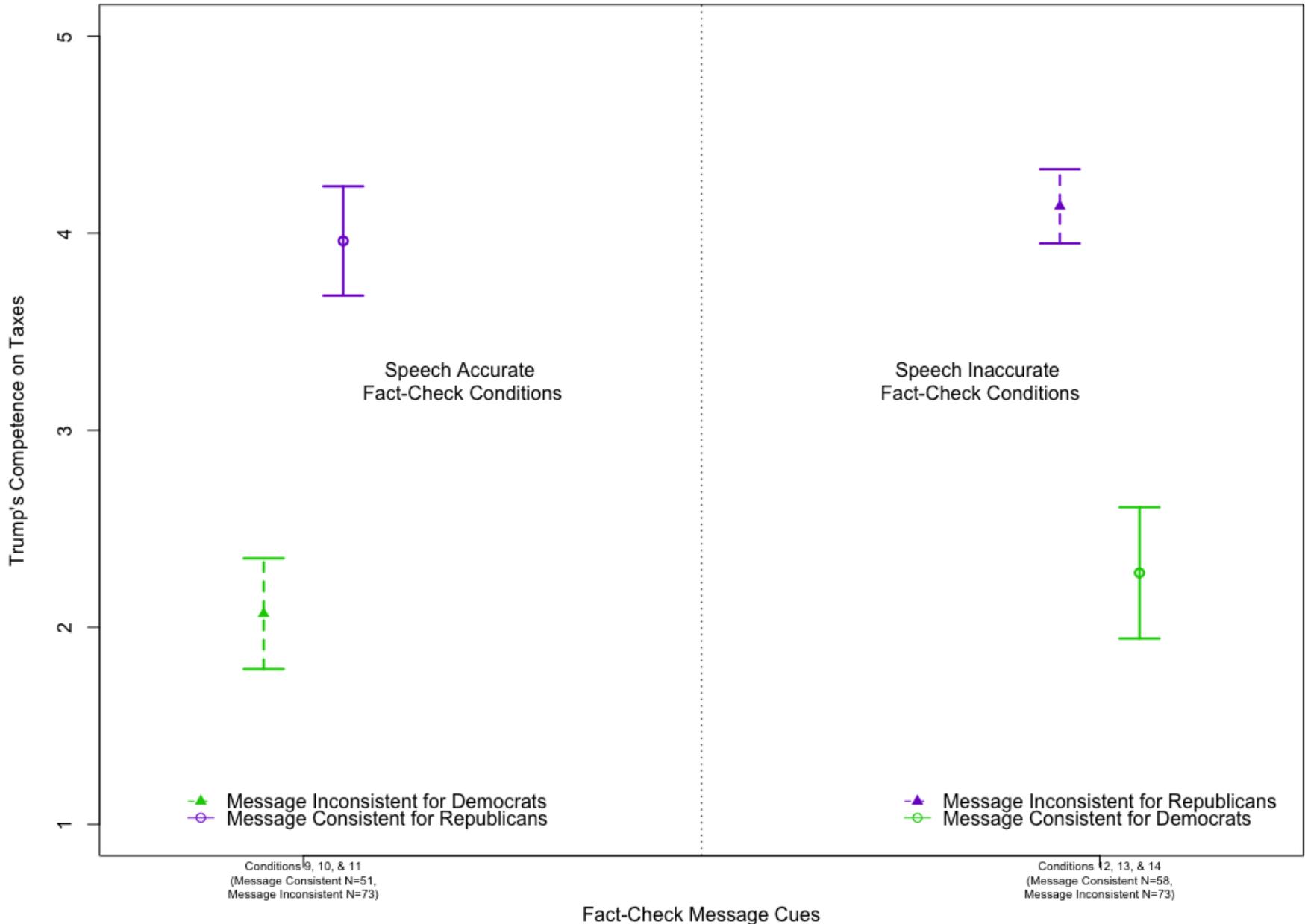
Accuracy is measured on a three point scale where 1 is not accurate at all and 3 is very accurate. Means are presented along with 95% confidence intervals.

Respondent's Assessment of Hillary Clinton's Competence on the Issue of Taxes by Fact-Check Message and Message Consistency



Respondents were asked: Thinking about the issue of taxes, how competent do you think Hillary Clinton is in dealing with the issue of taxes? Competence is measured on a five point scale where 1 is very incompetent and 5 is very competent. Means are presented along with 95% confidence intervals.

Respondent's Assessment of Donald Trump's Competence on the Issue of Taxes by Fact-Check Message and Message Consistency



Respondents were asked: Thinking about the issue of taxes, how competent do you think Donald Trump is in dealing with the issue of taxes? Competence is measured on a five point scale where 1 is very incompetent and 5 is very competent. Means are presented along with 95% confidence intervals.

Conclusions

- Republicans and conservatives are more likely to selectively expose themselves to congruent fact-check sources.
- Republicans are resistant to fact-check message cues (from any source).
- Democrats and liberals are not more or less likely to selectively expose themselves to congruent fact-check sources.
- Democrats assessment of the candidates and their campaign communications are modestly influenced by exposure to the fact-check.