Dependent t-test

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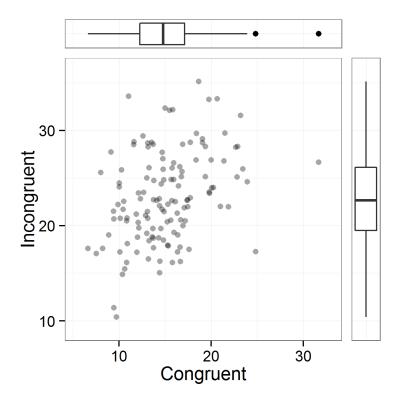
This document summarizes a comparison between two independent groups, comparing reaction times (in seconds) between the Congruent and Incongruent conditions. This script can help to facilitate the analysis of data, and the word-output might prevent copy-paste errors when transferring results to a manuscript.

Researchers can base their statistical inferences on Frequentist or robust statistics, as well as on Bayesian statistics. Effect sizes and their confidence intervals are provided, thus inviting researchers to interpret their data from multiple perspectives.

Checking for outliers, normality, equality of variances.

Outliers

Boxplots can be used to identify outliers. Boxplots give the median (thick line), and 25% of the data above and below the median (box). End of whiskers are the maximum and minimum value when excluding outliers (which are indicated by dots). Code adapted from Sandy Muspratt.



Normality assumption

The dependent *t*-test assumes that *difference* scores are normally distributed and that the variances of the two groups are equal. It does *not* assume the data within each measurement (so within the Congruent and Incongruent condition) are normally distributed. If the normality assumption is violated, the Type 1 error rate of the test is no longer controlled, and can substantially increase beyond the chosen significance level. Formally, a normality test based on the data is incorrect, and the normality assumption should be tested on additional (e.g., pilot) data. Nevertheless, a two-step procedure (testing the data for normality, and using alternatives for the traditional *t*-test if normality is violated) works well (see Rochon, Gondan, & Kieser, 2012).

Tests for normality

Yap and Sim (2011, p. 2153) recommend: "If the distribution is symmetric with low kurtosis values (i.e. symmetric short-tailed distribution), then the D'Agostino-Pearson and Shapiro-Wilkes tests have good power. For symmetric distribution with high sample kurtosis (symmetric long-tailed), the researcher can use the JB, Shapiro-Wilkes, or Anderson-Darling test." The Kolmogorov-Smirnov (K-S) test is often used, but no longer recommended, and not included here.

If a normality test rejects the assumptions that the data is normally distributed (with p < .05) non-parametric or robust statistics have to be used (robust analyses are provided below).

The normality assumption was rejected in 0 out of 4 normality tests (Anderson-Darling, D'Agostino-Pearson, and Shapiro-Wilk).

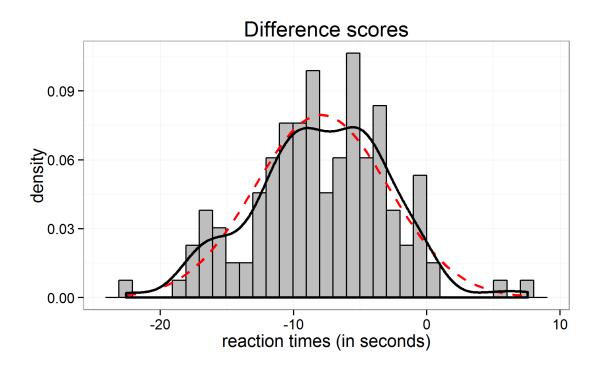
Test Name	<i>p</i> -value
Shapiro-Wilk	p = 0.442
D'Agostino-Pearson	p = 0.627
Anderson-Darling	p = 0.333
Jarque-Berra	p = 0.765

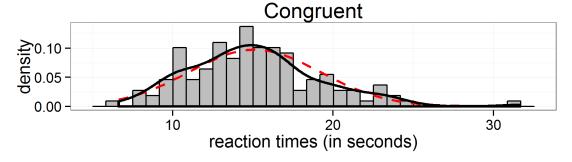
In very large samples (when the test for normality has close to 100% power) tests for normality can result in significant results even when data is normally distributed, based on minor deviations from normality. In very small samples (e.g., n = 10), deviations from normality might not be detected, but this does not mean the data is normally distributed. Always look at a plot of the data in addition to the test results.

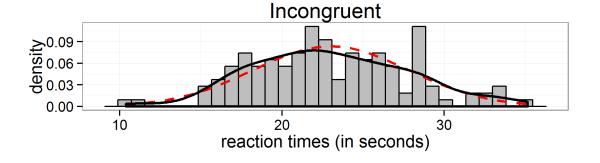
Histogram, kernel density plot (black line) and normal distribution (red line) of difference scores

The density (or proportion of the observations) is plotted on the y-axis. The grey bars are a histogram of the difference scores. Judging whether data is normally distributed on the basis of a histogram depends too much on the number of bins (or bars) in the graph. A

kernel density plot (a non-parametric technique for density estimation) provides an easier way to check the normality of the data by comparing the shape of the density plot (the black line) with a normal distribution (the red dotted line, based on the observed mean and standard deviation). For dependent t-tests, the main DV is the *difference score*, and therefore the difference score should be normally distributed.

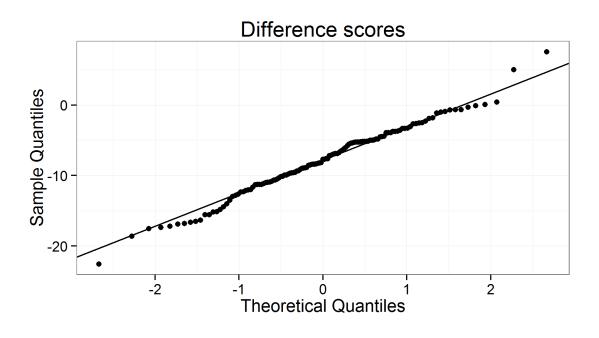


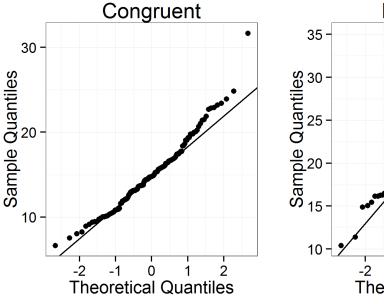


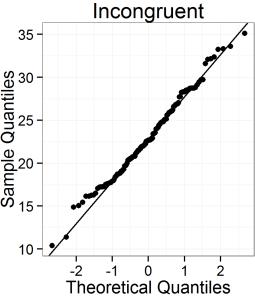


Q-Q-plot

In the Q-Q plot for the difference scores the points should fall on the line. Deviations from the line in the upper and lower quartiles indicates the tails of the distributions are thicker or thinner than in the normal distribution. An S-shaped curve with a dip in the middle indicates data is left-skewed (more values to the right of the distribution), while a bump in the middle indicates data is right-skewed (more values to the left of the distribution). For interpretation examples, see here.







Equal variances assumption

In addition to the normality assumption, a second assumption of the *t*-test is that variances in both groups are equal. The variance is the standard deviation, squared, and the assumption is thus that the variance in the Congruent condition (16.81) equals that in the Incongruent condition (22.88). Markowski & Markowski (1990) show that if sample sizes are equal, violations of the equal variance assumption do not lead to unsatisfactory performance (defined as actual significance levels falling outside a 0.03-0.07 boundary for a nominal alpha level of 0.05).

Levene's test

This equality of variances assumption is typically examined with Levene's test, although in small samples, Levene's test can have low power, and thus fail to reject the null-hypothesis that variances are equal, even when they are unequal. Levene's test for equality of variances (p = 0.038) indicates that the assumption that variances are equal is rejected (consider reporting robust statistics).

Comparing the two sets of data

Frequentist statistics

A *p*-value is the probability of obtaining the observed result, or a more extreme result, assuming the null-hypothesis is true. It is not the probability that the null-hypothesis or the alternative hypothesis is true (for such inferences, see Bayesian statistics below). In repeated sampling, 95% of future 95% confidence intervals can be expected to contain the true population parameters (e.g. the mean difference or the effect size). Confidence intervals are not a statement about the probability that a single confidence interval contains the true population parameter, but a statement about the probability that future confidence intervals will contain the true population parameter. Hedges' g (also referred to as d_{unbiased} , see Borenstein, Hedges, Higgins, & Rothstein, 2009) is provided as best estimate of Cohen's d, but the best estimate of the confidence interval is based on d_{av} (as recommended by Cumming, 2012). Hedges's g and the 95% CI around the effect size are calculated using the MBESS package by (Kelley (2007). The common language effect size expresses the probability that in any random pairing of two observations from both groups, the observation from one group is higher than the observation from the other group, see McGraw & Wong, 1992. In a dependent t-test, the effect size Cohen's d can be calculated by using a standardizer that controls for the correlation between observations (d_{av}) or not (d_z) . Both are provided, but d_{av} (or actually it's unbiased estimate, g_{av}) is recommended. For a discussion, see Lakens, 2013. Default interpretations of the size of an effect as provided here should only be used as a last resort, and it is preferable to interpret the size of the effect in relation to other effects in the literature, or in terms of its practical significance.

Results

The mean reaction times (in seconds) (M = 15.1, SD = 4.1) of participants in the Congruent condition was smaller than the mean (M = 23, SD = 4.78) of participants in the Incongruent

condition (r = 0.37). The difference between measurements is (M = -7.9, SD = 5.02), 95% CI = [-8.77;-7.04], t(130) = -18.04, p < 0.001, Hedges' g = -1.76, 95% CI [-2.06;-1.48] (or d_z = -1.58, 95% CI [-1.83;-1.32]). This can be considered a large effect. The observed data is surprising under the assumption that the null-hypothesis is true. The Common Language effect size (McGraw & Wong, 1992) indicates that after controlling for individual differences, the likelihood that a persons reaction times (in seconds) in the Congruent condition is smaller than the reaction times (in seconds) in the Incongruent condition is 94%.

Bayesian statistics

Bayesian statistics can quantify the relative evidence in the data for either the alternative hypothesis or the null hypothesis. Bayesian statistics require priors to be defined. In the Bayes Factor calculation reported below, a non-informative Jeffreys prior is placed on the variance of the normal population, while a Cauchy prior is placed on the standardized effect size (for details, see Morey & Rouder, 2011). Calculations are performed using the BayesFactor package. Default interpretations of the strength of the evidence are provided but should not distract from the fact that strength of evidence is a continuous function of the Bayes Factor. A second popular Bayesian approach relies on estimation, and the mean posterior and 95% higest density intervals (HDI) are calculated following recommendations by Kruschke, (2013) based on vague priors. According to Kruschke (2010, p. 34): 'The HDI indicates which points of a distribution we believe in most strongly. The width of the HDI is another way of measuring uncertainty of beliefs. If the HDI is wide, then beliefs are uncertain. If the HDI is narrow, then beliefs are fairly certain.' To check the convergence and fit of the HDI simulations, the Brooks-Gelman-Rubin scale reduction factor for the difference score should be smaller than 1.1 (it is 1.0000365) and the effective sample size should be larger than 10000 (it is 62718). Thus, the HDI simulation is acceptable.

Results

The JZS BF₁₀ (with r scale = 0.5) = 5.820268510^{3} . This indicates the data are 5.820268510^{3} (or \log_e BF = 77.75) times more probable under the alternative hypothesis, than under the null hypothesis. This data provides decisive evidence for H1. The posterior mean difference is -7.88, 95% HDI = [-8.75; -7.01].

Robust statistics

Values in the tails of the distribution can have a strong influence on the mean. If values in the tails differ from a normal distribution, the power of a test is reduced and the effect size estimates are biased, even under slight deviations from normality (Wilcox, 2012). One way to deal with this problem is to remove the tails in the analysis by using $trimmed\ means$. A recommended percentage of trimming is 20% from both tails (Wilcox, 2012), which means inferences are based on the 60% of the data in the middle of the distribution. Yuen's method can be used to compare trimmed means (when the percentage of trimming is 0%, Yuen's method reduces to Welch's t-test). The equivalent of Cohen's d for within designs is not yet available, so the explanatory effect size is reported (Wilcox & Tian, 2011).

Explanatory power (Xi, replace in the output below by the Greek lowercase Xi symbol) is the robust equivalent of omega squared (unbiased eta squared, or r squared), and thus related to d_z in size, not to d_{av} . The effect size convention of small, medium, and large corresponds approximately to Xi = 0.15, 0.35 and 0.50.

Results

Using the Yuen-Welch method for comparing 20% trimmed means showed the mean difference in reaction times (in seconds) between conditions is (M = -8.01, 95% CI [-8.04; 7.98]), which is statistically different from zero, t(78) = -16.91, p < 0.001, Xi = -1.67. The observed data is surprising under the assumption that the null-hypothesis is true. This can be considered a large effect.

Plotting data

Graph examples. In the code, you can turn different layers on and off, and change their properties by adding or removing # in front of a line of code. Displays violin plot (rotated kernal density plots) and 95% CI bars (for between designs and adjusted for within designs following Morey (2008)), individual data-points, or simple bar graphs.

Figure 1. Means, violin plot, and two-tiered 95% within (crossbars) and between (endpoints of lines) confidence intervals following Baguley (2012), and violin plot.

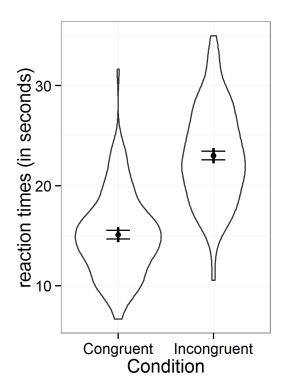


Figure 2. Means, datapoints, and 95% CI (between & within)

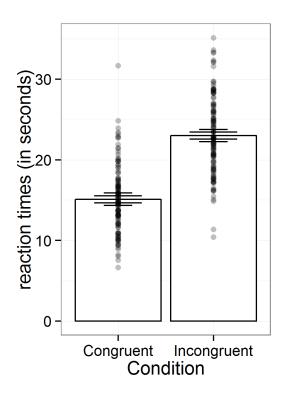
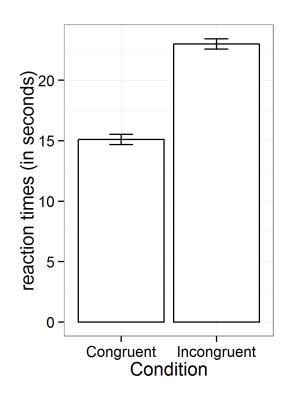


Figure 3. Bar chart displaying means and 95% CI (between)



References

This script uses the *reshape2* package to convert data from wide to long format, the *PoweR* package to perform the normality tests, *HLMdiag* to create the QQplots, *ggplot2* for all plots, *gtable* and *gridExtra* to combine multiple plots into one, *car* to perform Levene's test, *MBESS* to calculate effect sizes and their confidence intervals, *WRS* for the robust statistics, *BayesFactor* for the bayes factor, and *BEST* to calculate the Bayesian highest density interval.

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Apendix A: Data & Session Information

```
alldata
##
       PPNR Congruent Incongruent Year
                                             diff
## 1
                21.871
                             21.974 2013
                                           -0.103
## 2
           2
                22.820
                             25.116 2013
                                           -2.296
## 3
           3
                14.810
                             18.500 2013
                                           -3.690
## 4
          4
                10.142
                             20.786 2013 -10.644
                             22.097 2013
## 5
          5
                14.414
                                           -7.683
## 6
                19.803
                             23.402 2013
                                           -3.599
          6
## 7
          7
                 9.881
                             22.212 2013 -12.331
## 8
          8
                15.939
                             24.833 2013
                                           -8.894
## 9
          9
                 9.457
                             11.374 2013
                                           -1.917
## 10
                 8.230
         10
                             17.616 2013
                                           -9.386
## 11
         11
                21.490
                             29.729 2013
                                           -8.239
## 12
         12
                16.300
                             21.300 2013
                                           -5.000
## 13
                14.700
         13
                             27.704 2013 -13.004
## 14
         14
                11.600
                             28.500 2013 -16.900
## 15
         15
                16.765
                             25.133 2013
                                           -8.368
## 16
                             21.077 2013
         16
                12.890
                                           -8.187
## 17
                12.081
                             20.331 2013
         17
                                           -8.250
## 18
         18
                17.439
                             22.710 2013
                                           -5.271
## 19
         19
                15.666
                             24.837 2013
                                           -9.171
## 20
         20
                18.399
                             29.679 2013 -11.280
## 21
         21
                17.063
                             21.878 2013
                                           -4.815
## 22
                16.096
                             22.528 2013
         22
                                           -6.432
## 23
         23
                10.628
                             15.449 2013
                                           -4.821
## 24
         24
                14.381
                             22.821 2013
                                           -8.440
## 25
         25
                13.785
                             24.727 2013 -10.942
## 26
         26
                11.038
                             33.600 2013 -22.562
         27
## 27
                15.315
                             22.254 2013
                                           -6.939
## 28
         28
                17.739
                             22.917 2013
                                           -5.178
## 29
         29
                24.825
                             17.259 2013
                                            7.566
## 30
         30
                20.065
                             23.970 2013
                                           -3.905
## 31
         31
                13.137
                             20.761 2013
                                           -7.624
## 32
         32
                13.552
                             28.738 2013 -15.186
## 33
         33
                13.121
                             28.694 2013 -15.573
## 34
         34
                12.324
                             22.832 2013 -10.508
## 35
         35
                 6.636
                             17.598 2013 -10.962
## 36
         36
                15.469
                             32.099 2013 -16.630
## 37
         37
                15.967
                             19.289 2013
                                           -3.322
## 38
         38
                14.543
                             19.697 2013
                                           -5.154
## 39
         39
                             17.231 2013
                                           -0.899
                16.332
## 40
         40
                15.347
                             17.871 2013
                                           -2.524
                             32.352 2013
## 41
         41
                14.984
                                          -17.368
## 42
                15.809
         42
                             16.130 2013
                                           -0.321
## 43
         43
                                           -8.555
                14.106
                             22.661 2013
## 44
         44
                19.774
                             23.533 2013
                                           -3.759
## 45
         45
                13.200
                             16.500 2013
                                           -3.300
```

```
## 46
                13.701
                             28.526 2013 -14.825
         46
## 47
         47
                15.274
                             17.935 2013
                                           -2.661
## 48
         48
                14.743
                             27.036 2013 -12.293
## 49
         49
                 8.032
                             25.590 2013 -17.558
## 50
         50
                11.931
                             17.201 2013
                                           -5.270
## 51
         51
                20.664
                             33.328 2013 -12.664
## 52
         52
                13.260
                             18.410 2013
                                            -5.150
## 53
         53
                23.417
                             25.966 2013
                                            -2.549
## 54
                13.146
         54
                             28.276 2013 -15.130
## 55
         55
                10.031
                             24.467 2013 -14.436
## 56
         56
                16.941
                             19.983 2013
                                            -3.042
## 57
         57
                                            -9.649
                10.843
                             20.492 2013
## 58
         58
                11.631
                             28.823 2013 -17.192
## 59
         59
                 9.128
                             27.731 2013 -18.603
## 60
         60
                10.870
                             20.802 2013
                                            -9.932
## 61
         61
                16.601
                             26.202 2013
                                            -9.601
## 62
         62
                12.657
                             23.506 2013 -10.849
## 63
                 7.525
                                            -9.550
         63
                             17.075 2013
## 64
         64
                23.919
                             24.615 2013
                                            -0.696
## 65
         65
                10.375
                             14.871 2013
                                            -4.496
                13.743
                             17.680 2013
                                            -3.937
## 66
         66
## 67
         67
                17.405
                             22.651 2013
                                            -5.246
                10.442
## 68
         68
                             21.725 2013 -11.283
## 69
         69
                 8.900
                             19.034 2013 -10.134
## 70
         70
                13.700
                             18.700 2013
                                            -5.000
## 71
         71
                13.671
                             19.681 2013
                                            -6.010
## 72
         72
                12.598
                             29.429 2013 -16.831
## 73
         73
                14.908
                             21.464 2013
                                            -6.556
## 74
         74
                19.352
                             25.129 2013
                                            -5.777
## 75
         75
                19.359
                             28.297 2013
                                            -8.938
  76
                19.997
                             26.881 2013
                                            -6.884
##
         76
## 77
         77
                20.237
                             24.007 2013
                                            -3.770
##
  78
         78
                16.648
                             16.238 2013
                                             0.410
## 79
         79
                14.412
                             15.064 2013
                                            -0.652
## 80
         80
                31.669
                             26.643 2013
                                             5.026
## 81
                14.286
                             18.714 2013
                                            -4.428
         81
                             23.431 2013 -11.321
## 82
         82
                12.110
## 83
         83
                13.619
                             18.830 2013
                                            -5.211
## 84
                13.741
                                            -8.974
         84
                             22.715 2014
## 85
                14.788
         85
                             25.916 2014 -11.128
## 86
         86
                16.819
                             25.677 2014
                                            -8.858
## 87
         87
                11.888
                             21.213 2014
                                            -9.325
## 88
         88
                10.516
                             22.556 2014 -12.040
## 89
         89
                 9.436
                             20.715 2014 -11.279
## 90
         90
                13.256
                             26.072 2014 -12.816
## 91
         91
                18.643
                             35.135 2014 -16.492
## 92
         92
                15.827
                             32.161 2014 -16.334
## 93
         93
                13.000
                             25.000 2014 -12.000
## 94
         94
                17.600
                             17.513 2014
                                             0.087
## 95
         95
                19.065
                             28.724 2014
                                          -9.659
```

```
## 96
         96
               16.387
                            19.028 2014 -2.641
## 97
         97
               19.765
                            33.259 2014 -13.494
## 98
         98
               10.281
                            25.849 2014 -15.568
## 99
         99
                            20.620 2014
               16.702
                                         -3.918
## 100
        100
               17.465
                            21.981 2014
                                         -4.516
## 101
        101
               19.040
                            29.129 2014 -10.089
## 102
        102
               22.678
                            28.249 2014
                                         -5.571
## 103
        103
               15.767
                            26.069 2014 -10.302
## 104
        104
               14.445
                            16.273 2014
                                         -1.828
## 105
        105
               16.888
                            28.540 2014 -11.652
## 106
        106
               10.034
                            24.069 2014 -14.035
## 107
        107
               10.091
                            17.241 2014
                                         -7.150
## 108
        108
               16.460
                            24.180 2014
                                         -7.720
## 109
        109
               15.721
                            22.622 2014
                                         -6.901
## 110
        110
               10.900
                            18.100 2014
                                          -7.200
## 111
       111
               17.196
                            20.492 2014
                                         -3.296
## 112
        112
               21.392
                            26.789 2014
                                         -5.397
## 113
        113
                            28.750 2014 -11.025
               17.725
## 114
        114
               23.204
                            31.584 2014
                                         -8.380
## 115
        115
               15.926
                            26.590 2014 -10.664
## 116
        116
               16.618
                            17.744 2014
                                         -1.126
## 117
        117
               14.850
                            24.800 2014
                                         -9.950
## 118
        118
               13.003
                            19.204 2014
                                         -6.201
## 119
        119
               15.247
                            20.389 2014
                                         -5.142
## 120
        120
                9.396
                            21.525 2014 -12.129
## 121
        121
               11.998
                            18.776 2014
                                          -6.778
## 122
        122
               15.615
                            20.585 2014
                                         -4.970
## 123
        123
               22.891
                            28.302 2014
                                         -5.411
## 124
        124
               10.825
                            16.130 2014
                                         -5.305
## 125
        125
               14.690
                            21.712 2014
                                         -7.022
## 126
        126
               21.000
                            22.000 2014
                                         -1.000
                            26.899 2014
## 127
        127
               18.363
                                         -8.536
## 128
        128
                9.733
                            10.396 2014
                                          -0.663
## 129
        129
               14.563
                            24.382 2014
                                         -9.819
## 130
        130
               12.162
                            19.769 2014
                                          -7.607
## 131
        131
               13.076
                            21.463 2014
                                         -8.387
sessionInfo()
## R version 3.2.0 (2015-04-16)
## Platform: x86_64-w64-mingw32/x64 (64-bit)
## Running under: Windows 8 x64 (build 9200)
##
## locale:
## [1] LC_COLLATE=Dutch_Netherlands.1252 LC_CTYPE=Dutch_Netherlands.1252
## [3] LC_MONETARY=Dutch_Netherlands.1252 LC_NUMERIC=C
## [5] LC_TIME=Dutch_Netherlands.1252
##
## attached base packages:
                 parallel stats graphics grDevices utils
## [1] grid
                                                                      datasets
```

```
## [8] methods
                 base
##
## other attached packages:
  [1] BEST 0.2.2
                             rjags_3-15
                                                   BayesFactor 0.9.11-1
  [4] coda_0.17-1
                             MASS_7.3-40
##
                                                   WRS_0.27.5
  [7] MBESS_3.3.3
                             car_2.0-25
                                                   gridExtra_0.9.1
##
## [10] gtable 0.1.2
                             ggplot2 1.0.1
                                                   HLMdiag 0.2.5
## [13] lme4_1.1-7
                             Matrix_1.2-0
                                                   PoweR 1.0.4
## [16] Rcpp_0.11.6
                             reshape2_1.4.1
##
## loaded via a namespace (and not attached):
   [1] formatR 1.2
                           nloptr 1.0.4
                                               plyr 1.8.2
   [4] tools 3.2.0
##
                           digest 0.6.8
                                               evaluate 0.7
## [7] nlme_3.1-120
                           lattice_0.20-31
                                               mgcv_1.8-6
## [10] yaml_2.1.13
                           mvtnorm_1.0-2
                                               SparseM_1.6
## [13] proto 0.3-10
                           stringr 1.0.0
                                               knitr 1.10
## [16] MatrixModels_0.4-0 gtools_3.4.2
                                               stats4_3.2.0
## [19] nnet 7.3-9
                           pbapply 1.1-1
                                               rmarkdown 0.5.1
## [22] minga 1.2.4
                           magrittr 1.5
                                               scales 0.2.4
## [25] htmltools 0.2.6
                           splines 3.2.0
                                               pbkrtest 0.4-2
## [28] colorspace 1.2-6
                           labeling 0.3
                                               quantreg 5.11
                           munsell_0.4.2
## [31] stringi_0.4-1
```

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