

Cracking computational modelling with Stan: Using Rescorla-Wagner model as an example

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April 10, 2020

https://github.com/lei-zhang/RL_tutorial_webinar

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Outline

- About me
- What is computational modeling?
- The idea of the simple Rescorla-Wagner (RW) model
- Implementing RW model for one subject in Stan
- Fitting multiple subjects with the hBayesDM package
- Summary

About me



Postdoc @univie



PhD + Postdoc @UKE



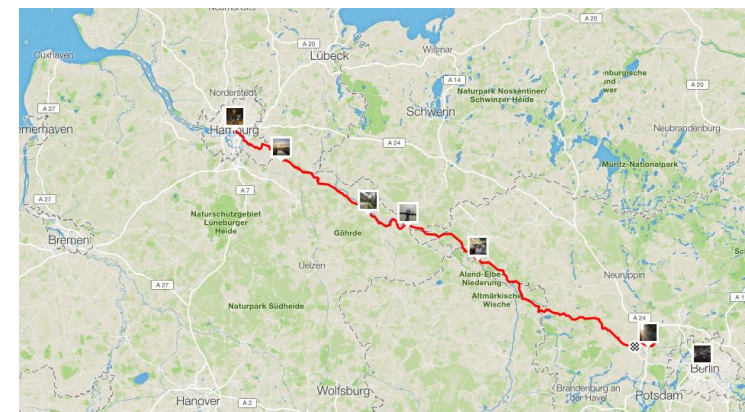
RiSE intern@Roche



MSc @BCBL



BSc @BNU



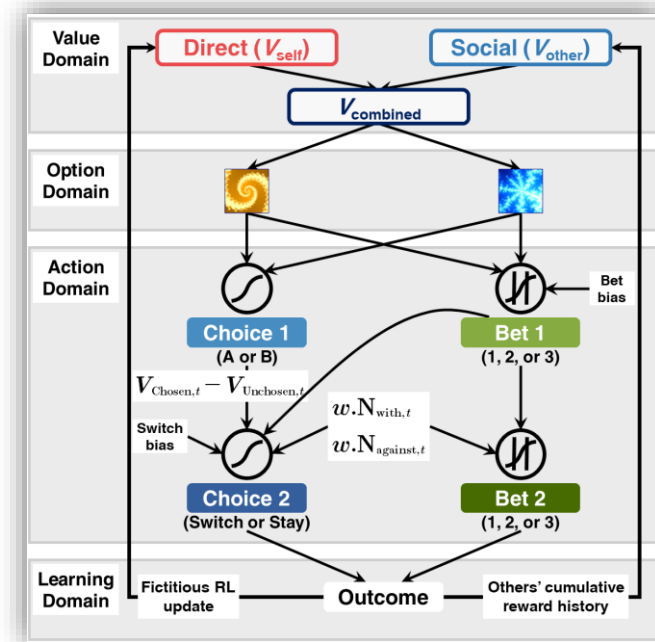
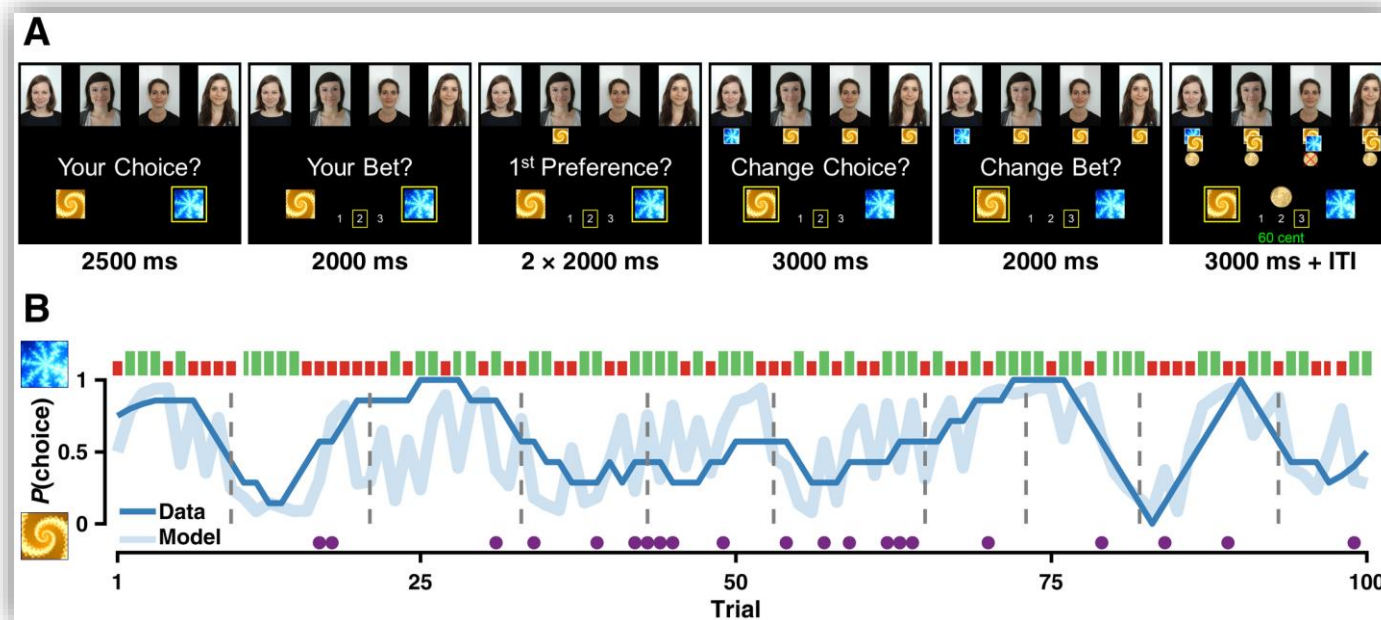
310km in one day!



<https://www.strava.com/athletes/leizhang>

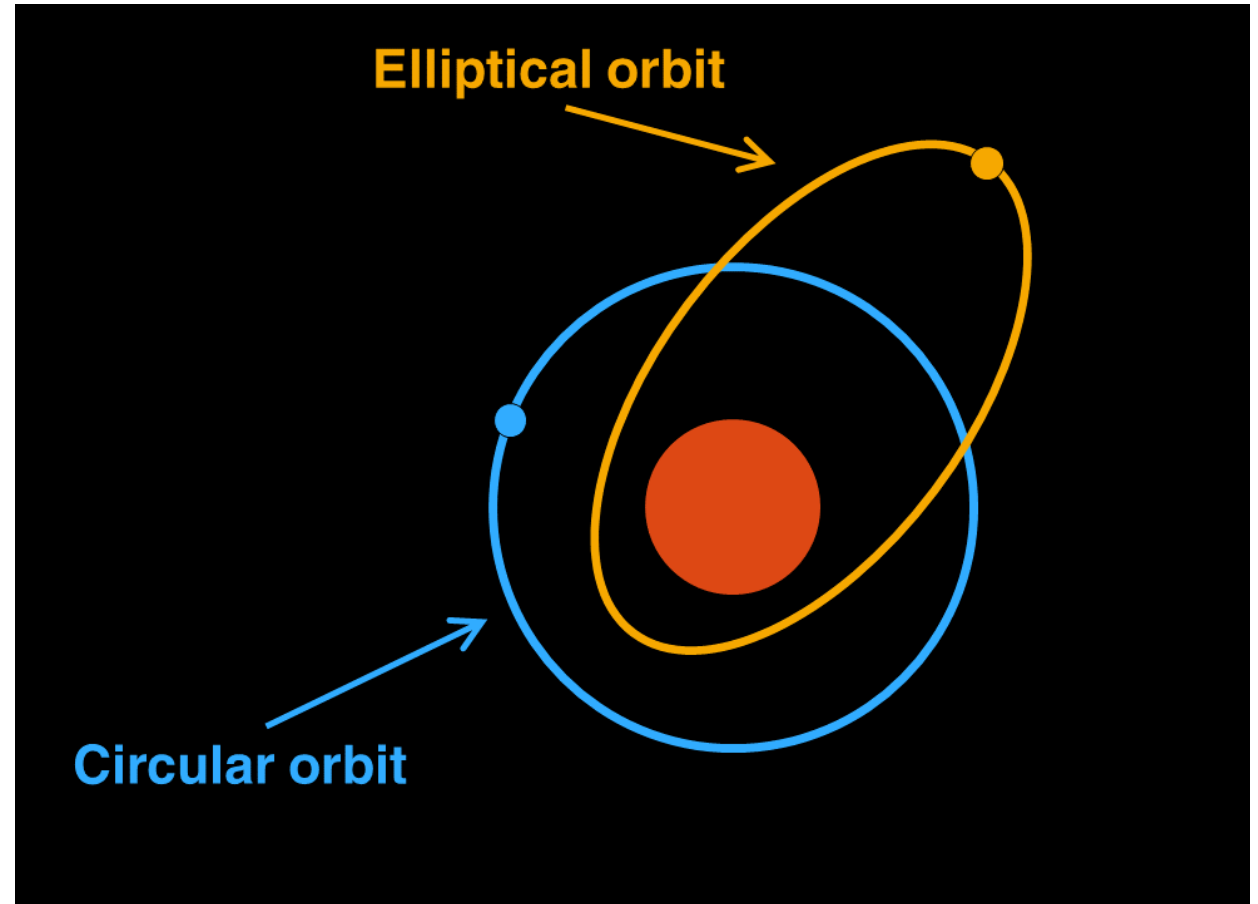
My research

- Overarching goal: uncover the **neuro-computational mechanisms underlying social decision-making**
- Methods: behavioral/physiological measurement, cognitive modeling, fMRI
- Example work: A brain network supporting social influences in human decision-making (Zhang & Gläscher, [bioRxiv](#))

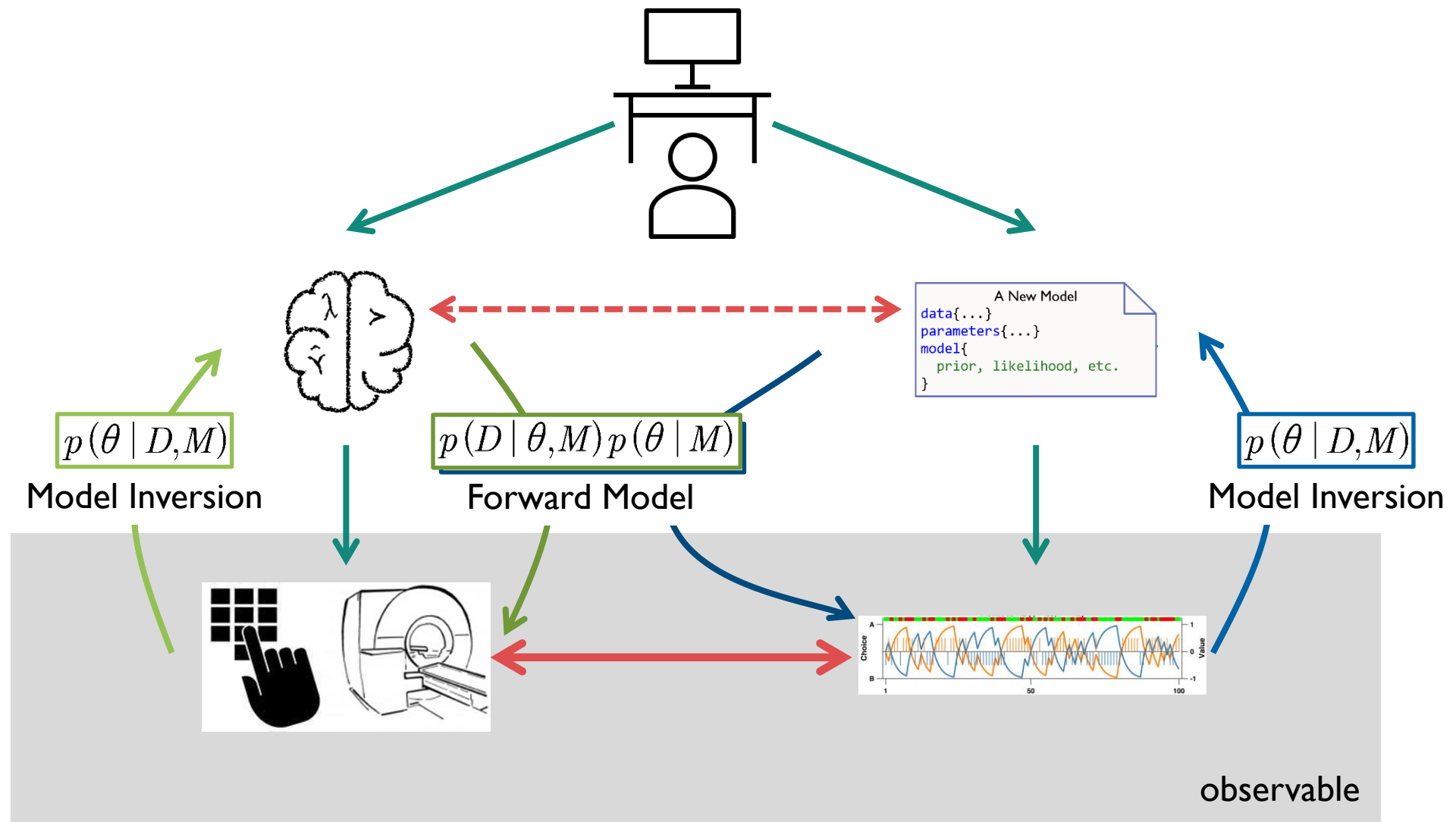


The idea of **computational modeling** is never new

Scientists use mathematical models to **approximate certain processes** (physical or mental), in order to explain and to predict.

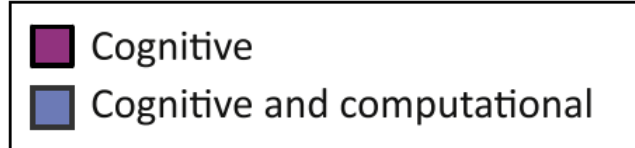


Computational modeling of Cognition

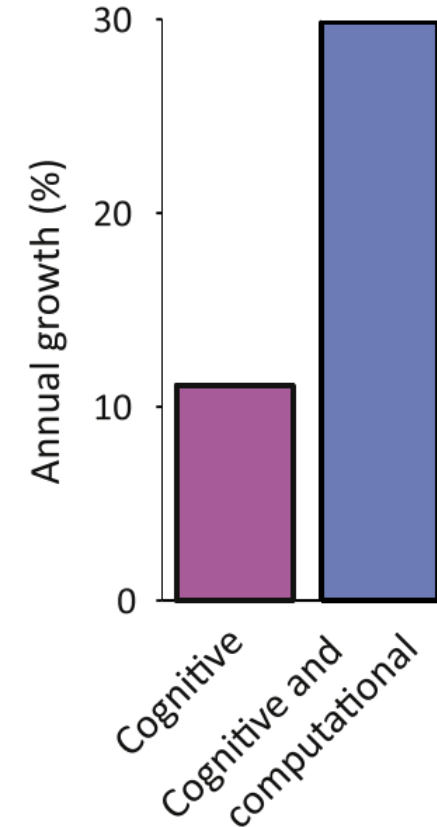
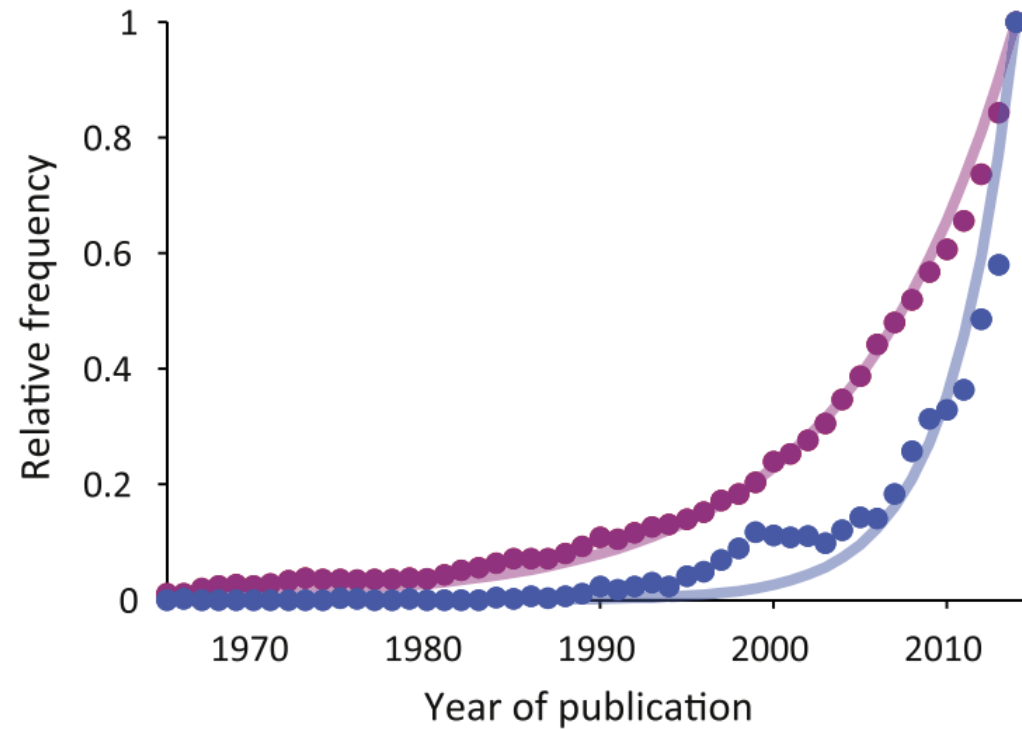


Boom in Computational Modeling

(A)



Source: PubMed



Very recent examples

REPORT

Dopamine promotes cognitive effort by biasing the benefits versus costs of cognitive work

A. Westbrook^{1,2,3,*}, R. van den Bosch^{2,3}, J. I. Mänttä^{2,3}, L. Hofmans^{2,3}, D. Papadopetaki^{2,3}, R. Cools^{2,3,†}, M. J. Frank^{1,4,†}

+ See all authors and affiliations

Science 20 Mar 2020:
Vol. 367, Issue 6484, pp. 1362-1366
DOI: 10.1126/science.aaz5891

Neuron

Available online 17 March 2020

In Press, Corrected Proof



Article

A Neuro-computational Account of Arbitration between Choice Imitation and Goal Emulation during Human Observational Learning

Caroline J. Charpentier^{1,2,✉}, Kiyohito Iigaya¹, John P. O'Doherty¹

3 out of 4 focused on Reinforcement Learning models!

nature reviews
neuroscience

Review Article | Published: 12 March 2020

The neural and computational systems of social learning

Andreas Olsson[✉], Ewelina Knapska & Björn Lindström

Nature Reviews Neuroscience 21, 197–212(2020) | Cite this article

Translational
Psychiatry

Article | Open Access | Published: 17 March 2020

Neurocomputational mechanisms underpinning aberrant social learning in young adults with low self-esteem

Geert-Jan Will[✉], Michael Moutoussis, Palee M. Womack, Edward T. Bullmore, Ian M. Goodyer, Peter Fonagy, Peter B. Jones, NSPN Consortium, Robb B. Rutledge & Raymond J. Dolan

Simple reinforcement learning: 2-armed bandit task



a simple task often used in the laboratory:

- repeated choice between N options (N-armed bandit)
- ...whose properties (reward amounts, probabilities) are learned through trial-and-error
- ...with a goal in mind: maximize the overall reward

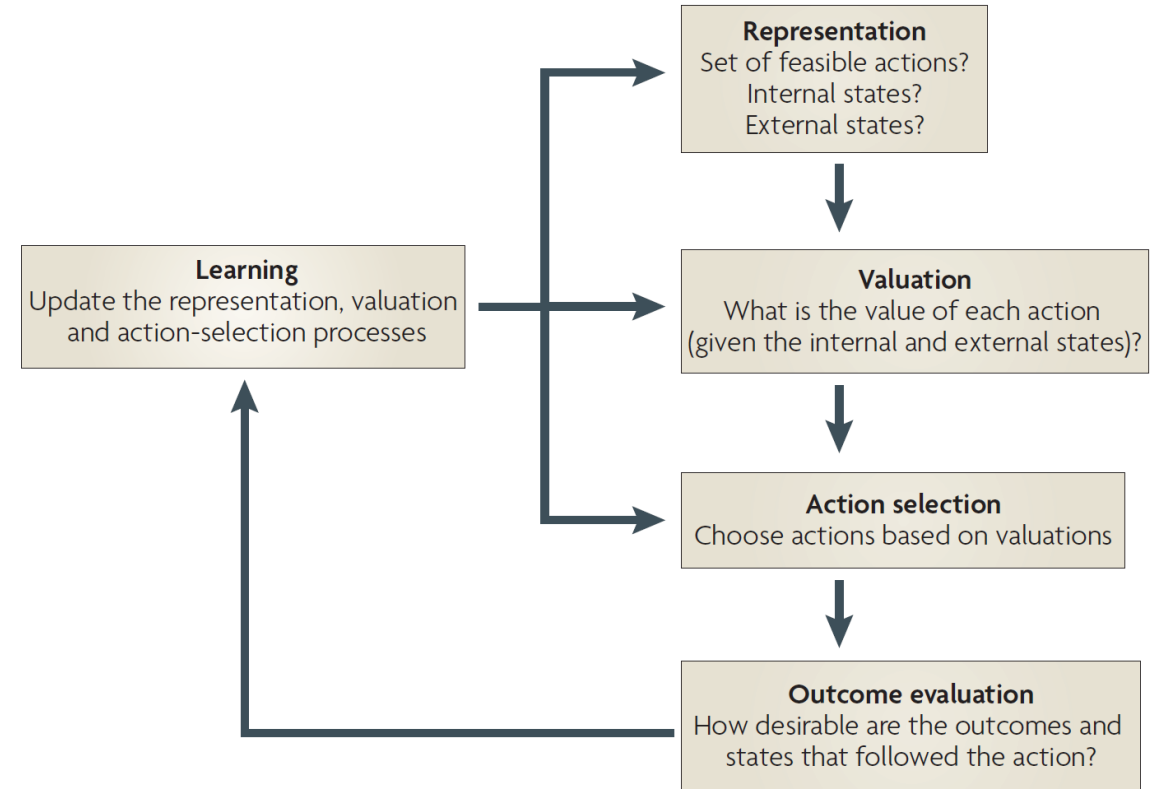
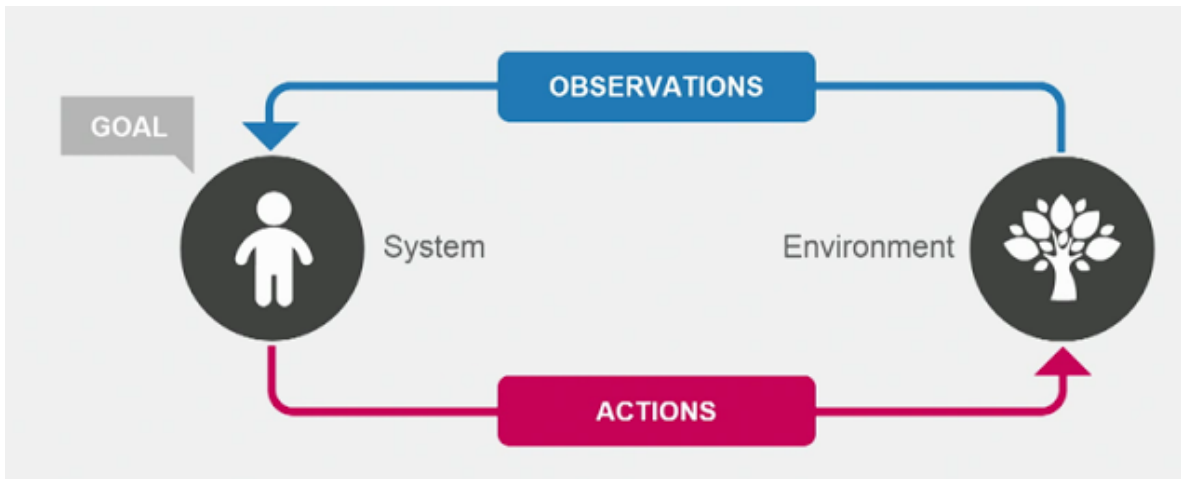
2-armed bandit task



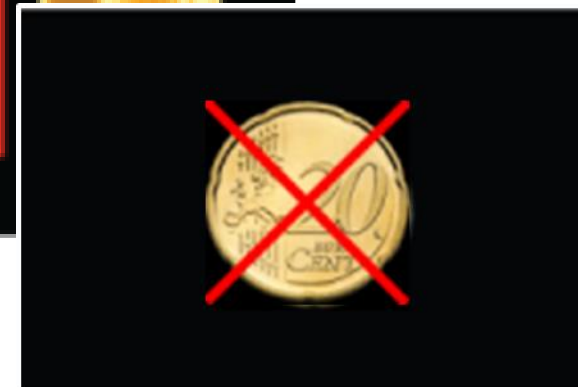
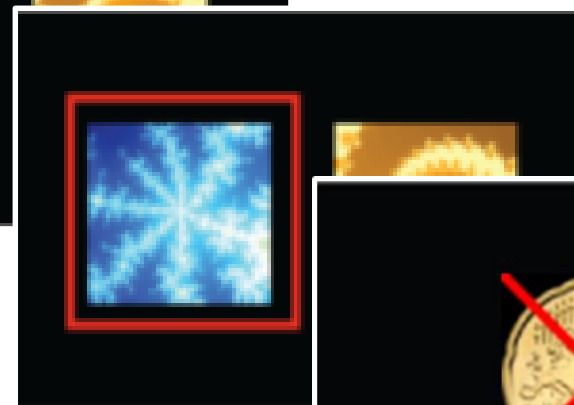
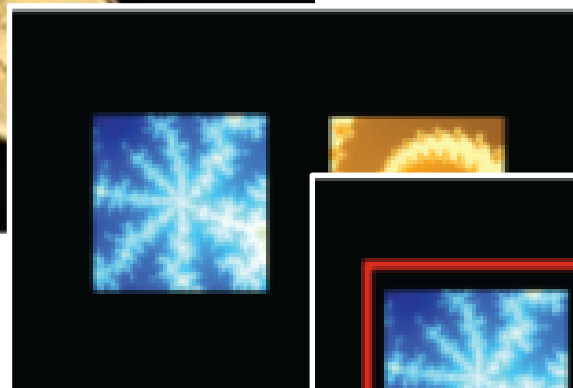
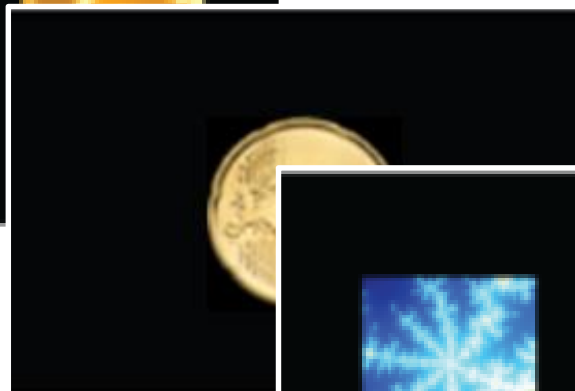
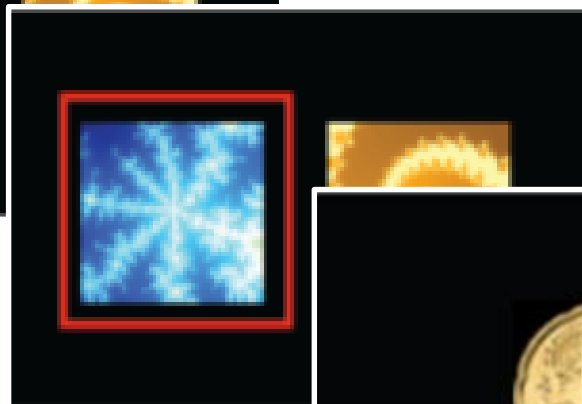
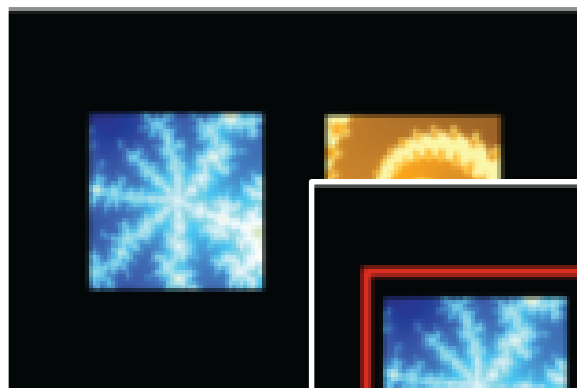
What can be your **strategies**:

1. **predict** the value of each deck
2. **choose** the best
3. **learn** from outcome to update predictions
(repeat)

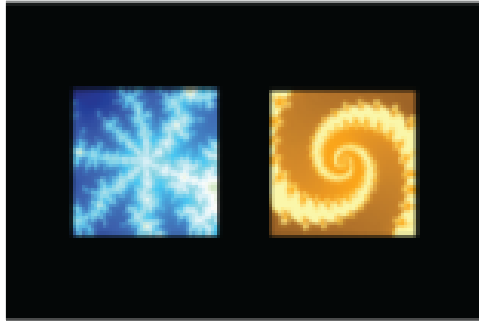
How prediction is shaped by learning?



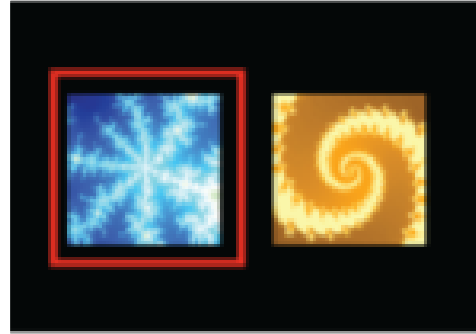
reward contingency 80:20



One simple experiment: two choice task



choice presentation



action selection



outcome

what do we know?

what can we measure?

what do we not know?

choice & outcome

choice accuracy

RL update

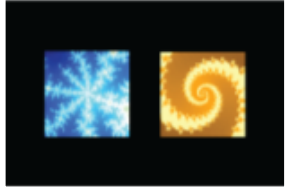
$p(\text{choosing the better option})$

	subjID	trialID	choice	outcome
1	1	1	1	1
2	1	2	1	1
3	1	3	1	1

Understand the learning rate

Value update: $V_t = V_{t-1} + \alpha * PE_{t-1}$

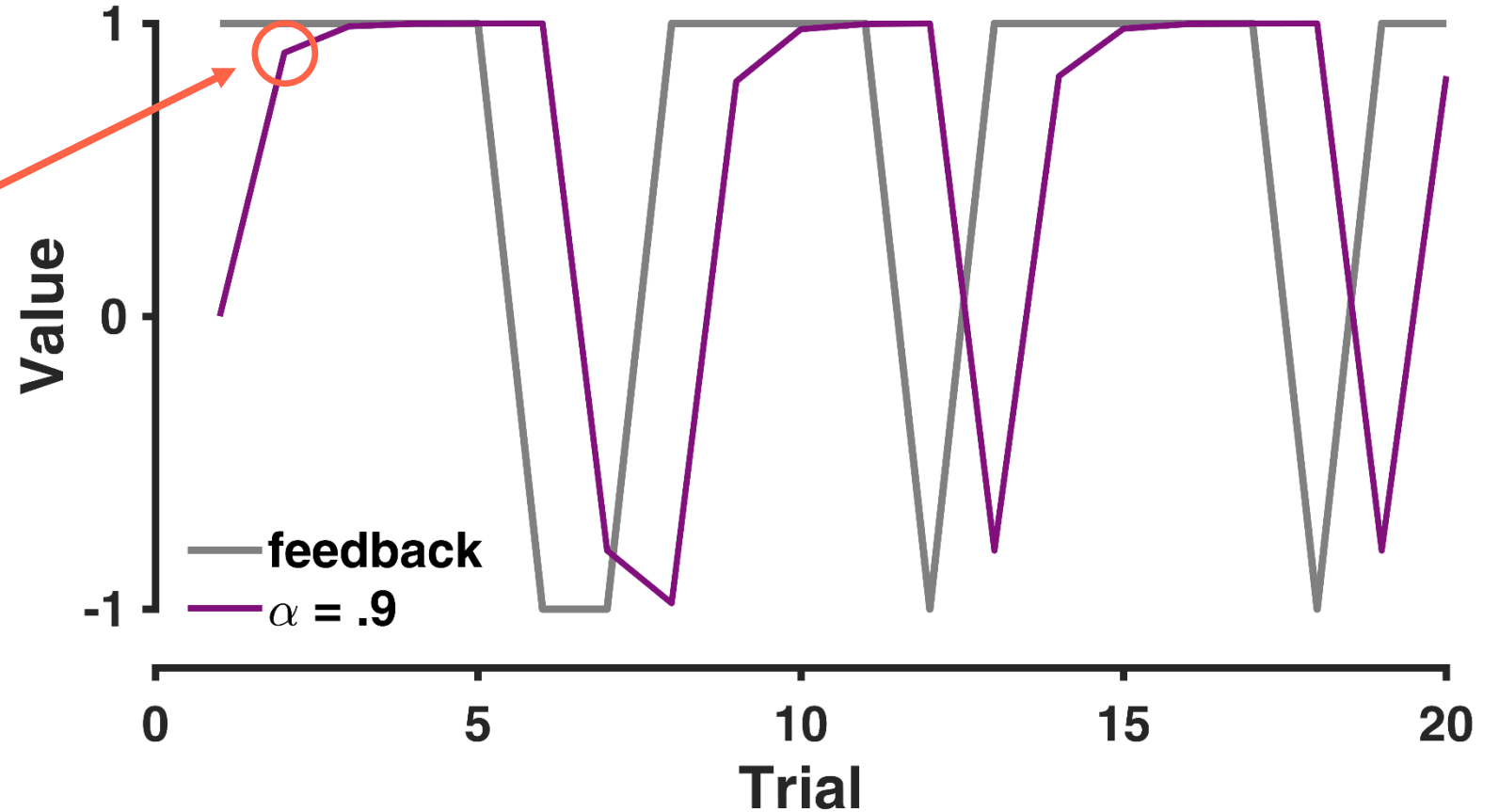
Prediction error: $PE_{t-1} = R_{t-1} - V_{t-1}$



if $\alpha = 0.9$

$$V_1 = 0$$

$$\begin{aligned} V_2 &= V_1 + 0.9 * (1 - V_1) \\ &= 0 + 0.9 * (1 - 0) \\ &= 0.9 \end{aligned}$$

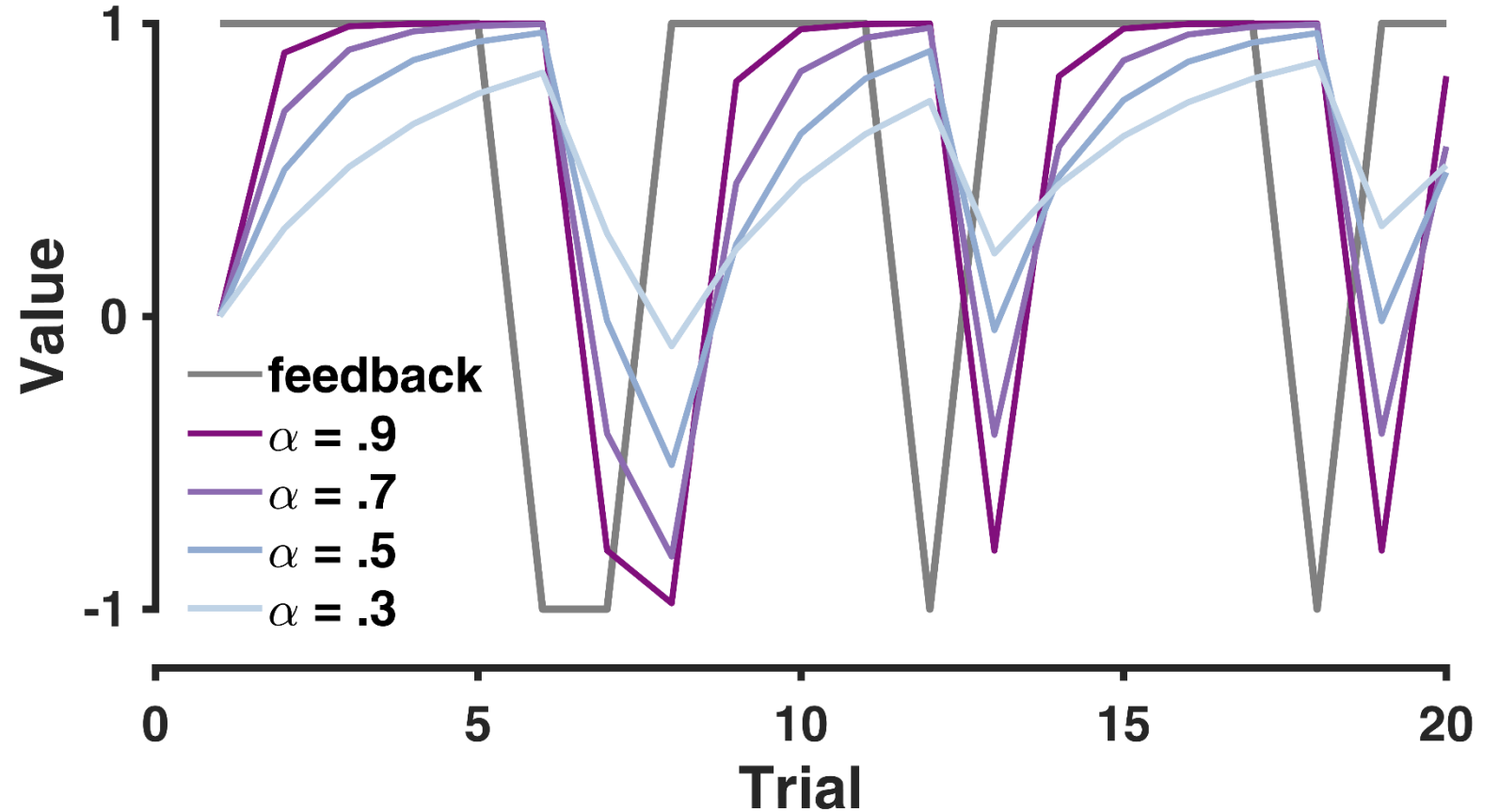


reward contingency – 80:20

Understand the learning rate

Value update: $V_t = V_{t-1} + \alpha * PE_{t-1}$

Prediction error: $PE_{t-1} = R_{t-1} - V_{t-1}$

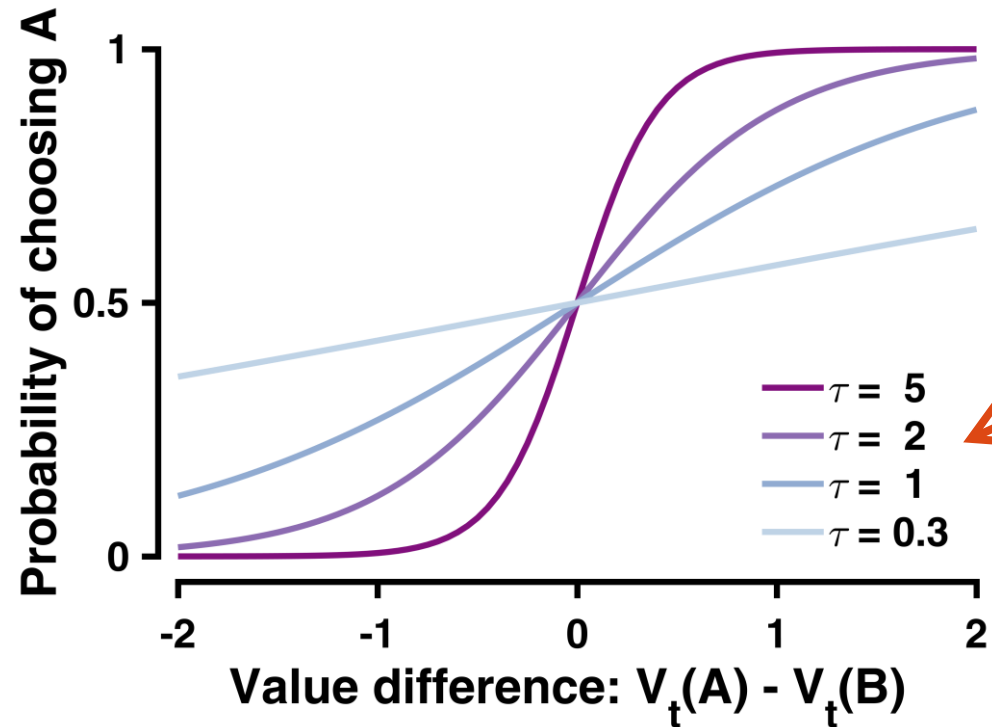


reward contingency – 80:20

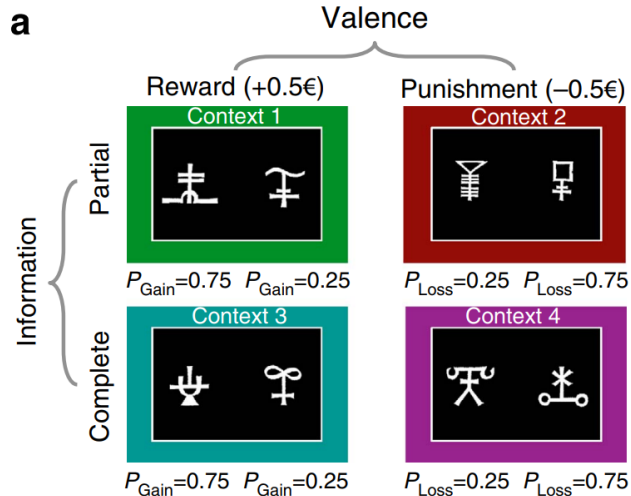
Choice rule: softmax



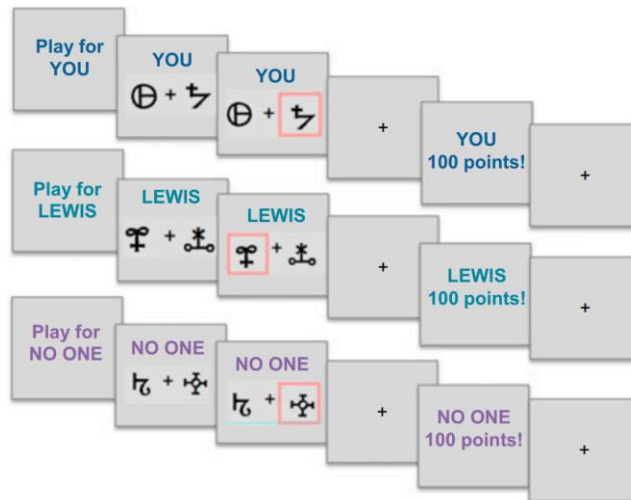
$$p_t(A) = \frac{e^{\tau * V_t(A)}}{e^{\tau * V_t(A)} + e^{\tau * V_t(B)}}$$
$$= \frac{1}{1 + e^{-\tau * (V_t(A) - V_t(B))}}$$



Generalizing RL framework

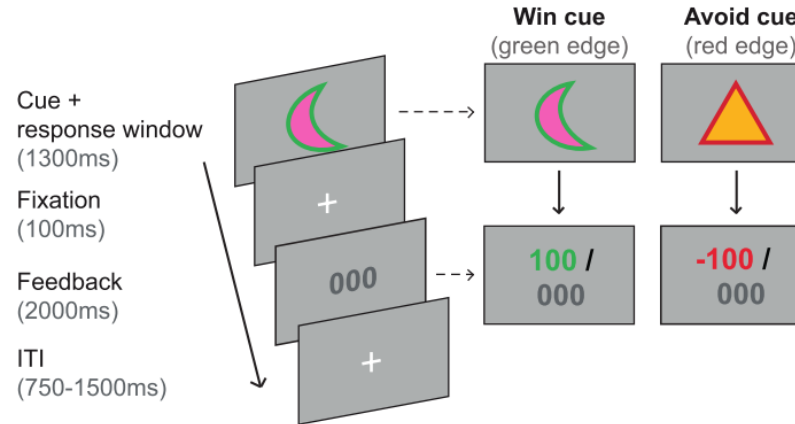


[Palminteri et al. \(2015\)](#)

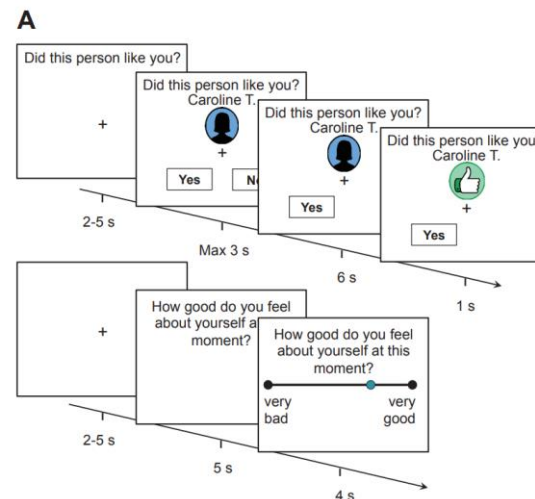


[Lockwood et al. \(2016\)](#)

A. Trial details



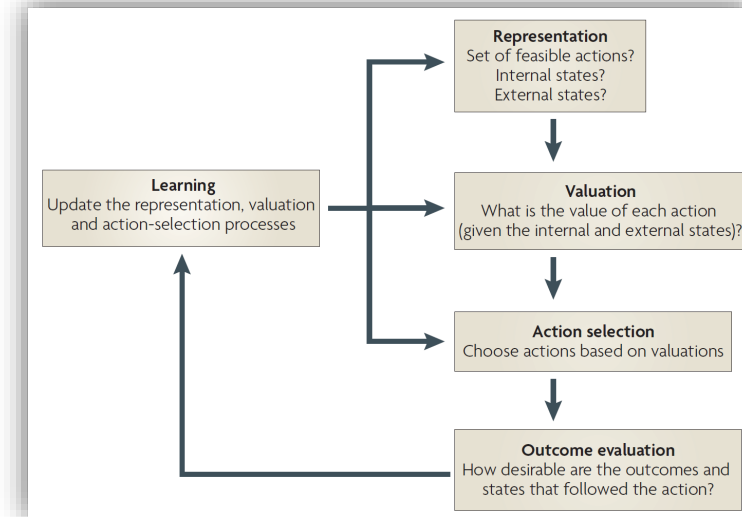
[Swart et al. \(2017\)](#)



[Will et al. \(2017\)](#)

B

	👍	👎
👤	85%	15%
👤	70%	30%
👤	30%	70%
👤	15%	85%



Bayesian analysis in Stan

Likelihood

How plausible is the data given our parameter is true?

Prior

How plausible is our parameter before observing the data?

$$p(\theta|D) = \frac{p(D|\theta)p(\theta)}{p(D)}$$

Posterior

How plausible is our parameter given the observed data?

Evidence

How plausible is the data under all possible parameters?

Getting rid of the denominator

$$p(\theta | D) = \frac{p(D | \theta) p(\theta)}{\int p(D | \theta^*) p(\theta^*) d\theta^*}$$

$$p(data) = \int_{\text{All } \theta_1} \int_{\text{All } \theta_2} p(data, \theta_1, \theta_2) d\theta_1 d\theta_2$$

$$p(data) = \int_{\mu_1} \int_{\sigma_1} \dots \int_{\mu_{100}} \int_{\sigma_{100}} \underbrace{p(data | \mu_1, \sigma_1, \dots, \mu_{100}, \sigma_{100})}_{\text{likelihood}} \times \underbrace{p(\mu_1, \sigma_1, \dots, \mu_{100}, \sigma_{100})}_{\text{prior}} d\mu_1 d\sigma_1 \dots d\mu_{100} d\sigma_{100}$$

$$p(\theta | D) \propto p(D | \theta) p(\theta)$$

important property that can be made use of by algorithms, e.g., **Markov Chain Monte Carlo (MCMC)**

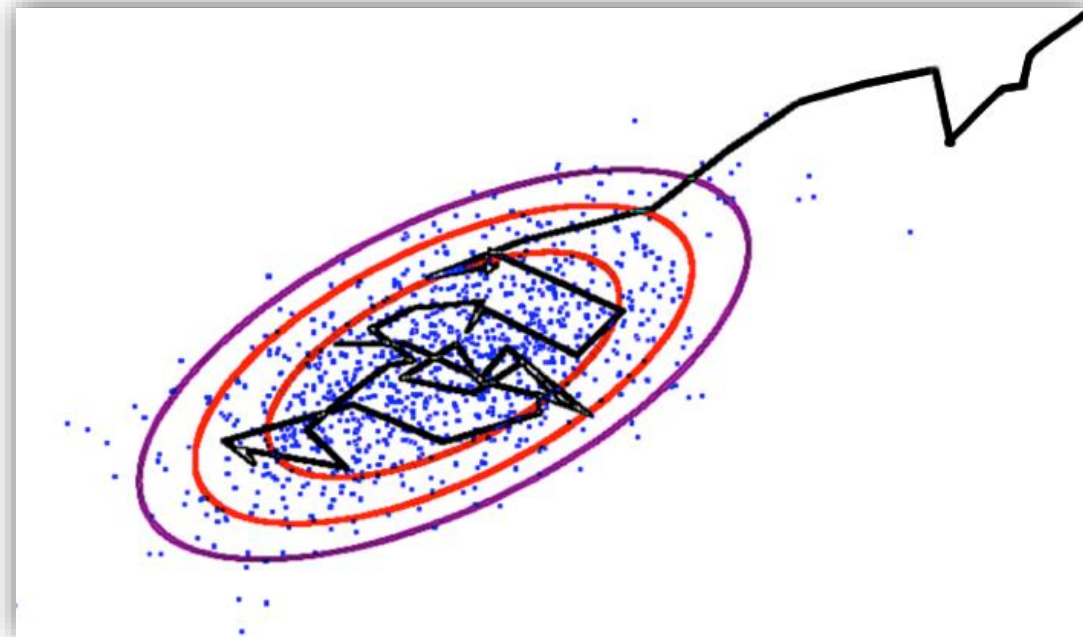
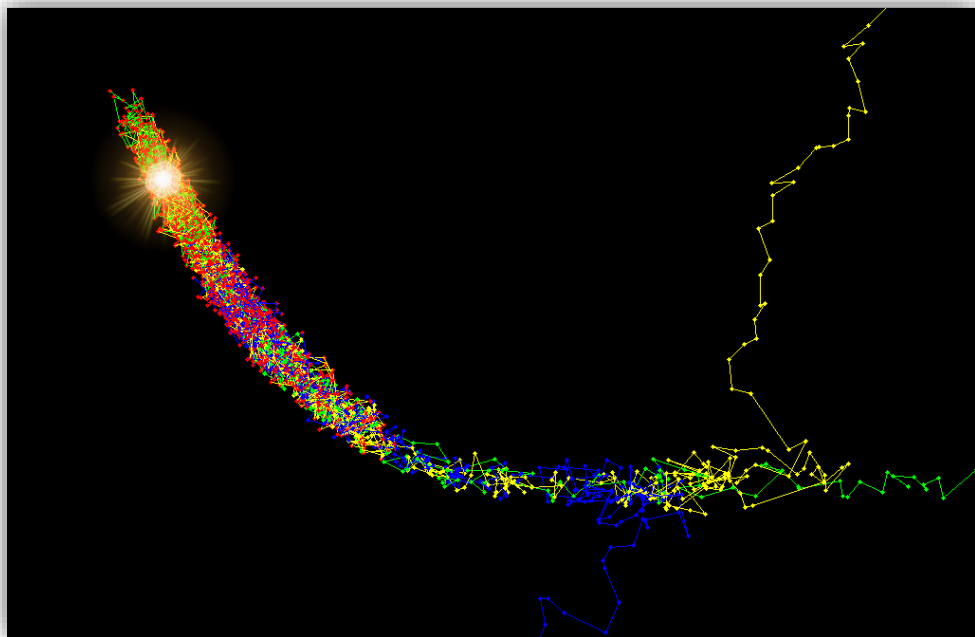
MCMC Sampling Algorithms

- Rejection sampling
- Importance sampling
- Metropolis algorithm
- Gibbs sampling → JAGS
- HMC sampling*

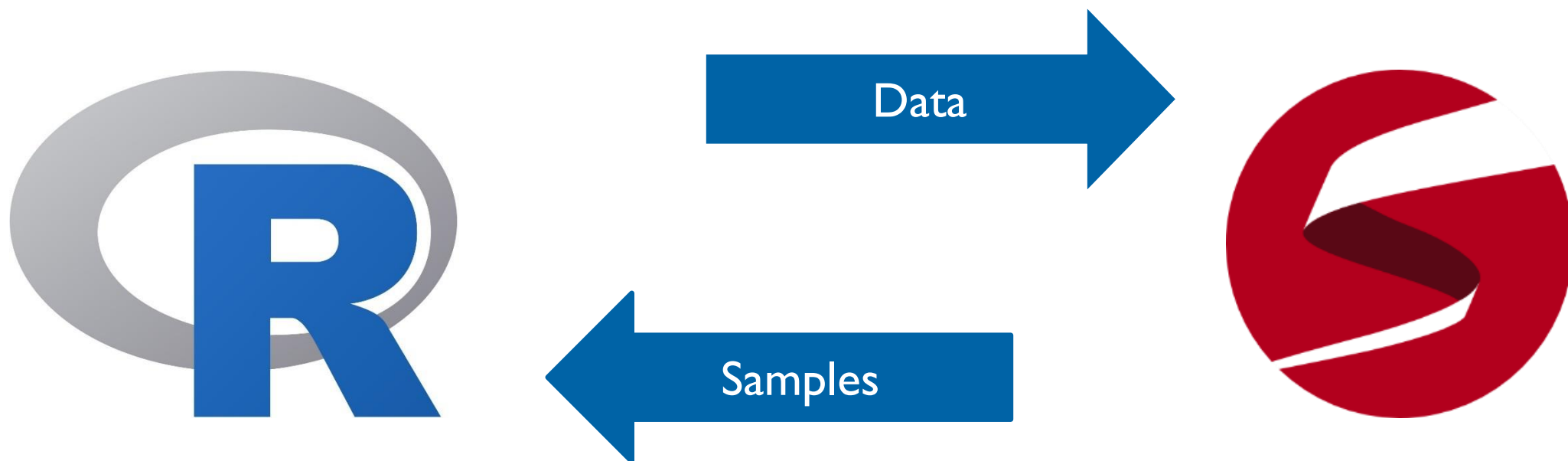


Stan!

Visual Example



Stan and RStan



Stan Language

```
data {  
  //... read in external data...  
}
```

```
transformed data {  
  //... pre-processing of data ...  
}
```

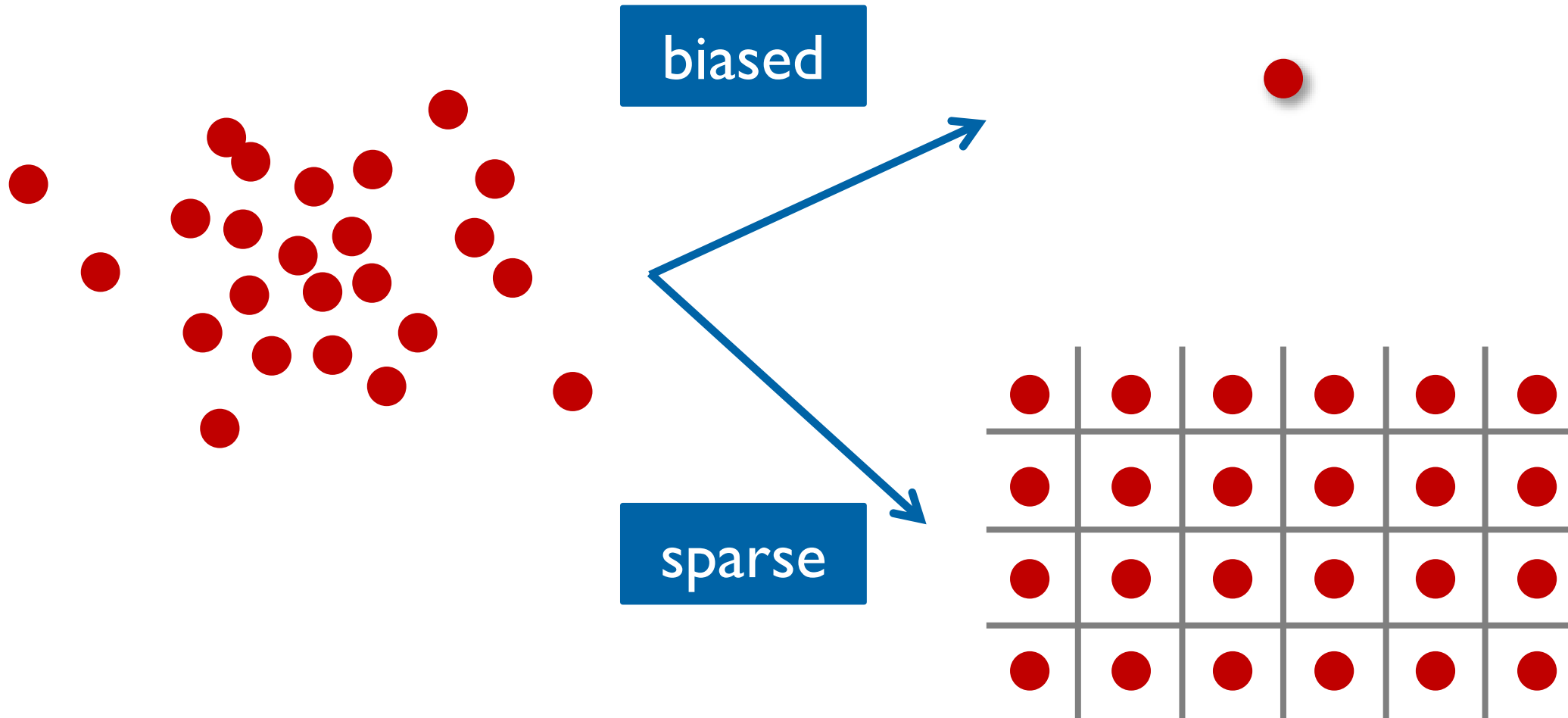
```
parameters {  
  //... parameters to be sampled by HMC ...  
}
```

```
transformed parameters {  
  //... pre-processing of parameters ...  
}
```

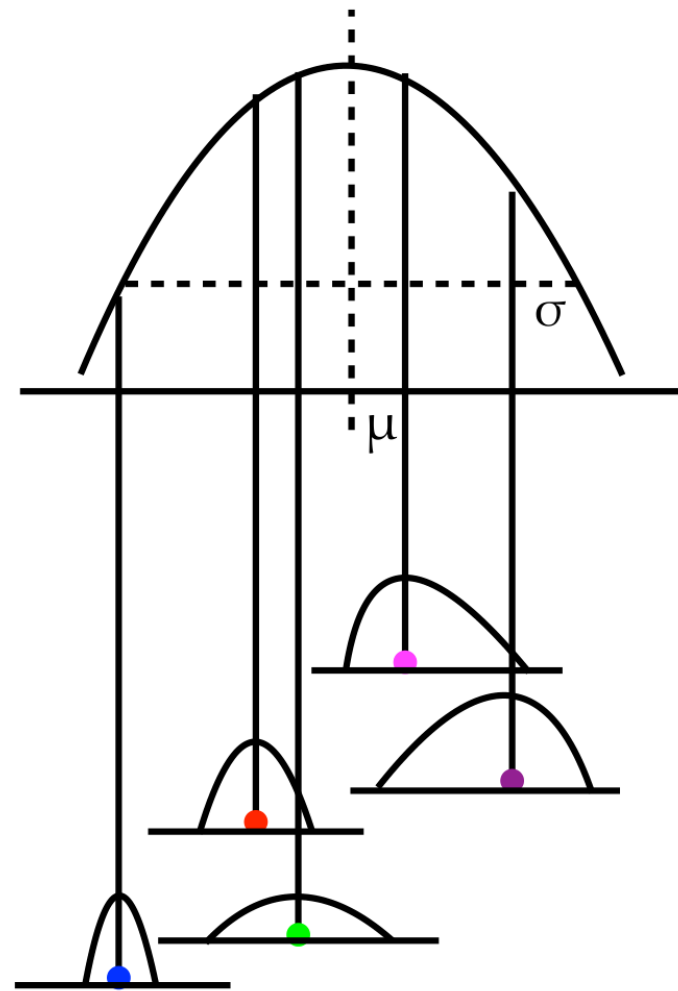
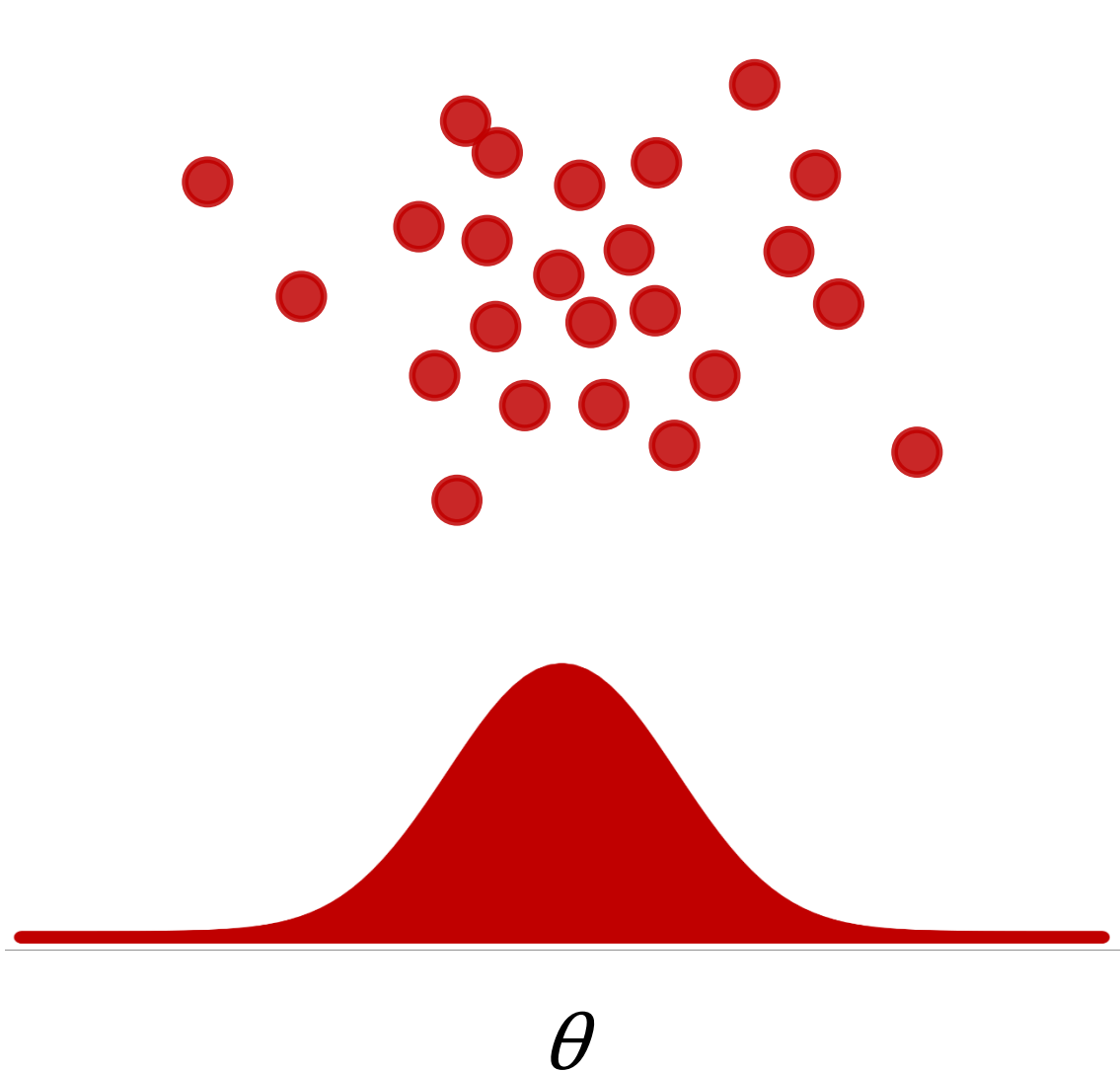
```
model {  
  //... statistical/cognitive model ...  
}
```

```
generated quantities {  
  //... post-processing of the model ...  
}
```

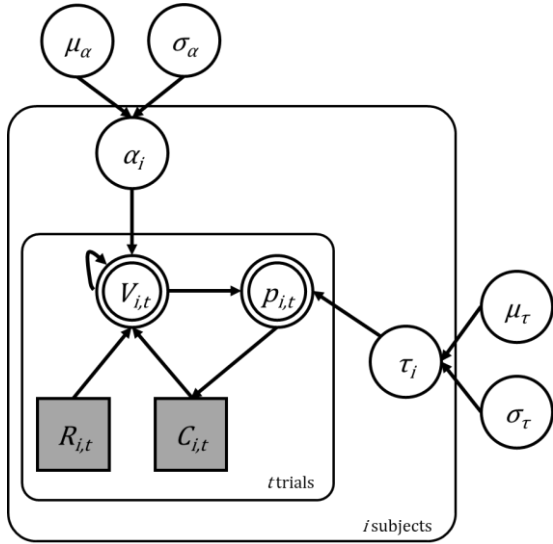
Fitting Multiple Participants



Fitting Multiple Participants with hierarchical Bayesian analysis (HBA)



HBA sounds good, but...



$$\mu_\alpha \sim \text{Uniform}(0,1)$$

$$\sigma_\alpha \sim \text{halfCauchy}(0,1)$$

$$\mu_\tau \sim \text{Uniform}(0,3)$$

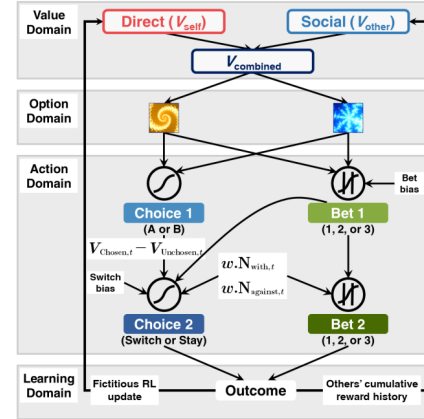
$$\sigma_\tau \sim \text{halfCauchy}(0,3)$$

$$\alpha_i \sim \text{Normal}(\mu_\alpha, \sigma_\alpha) \tau(0,1)$$

$$\tau_i \sim \text{Normal}(\mu_\tau, \sigma_\tau) \tau(0,3)$$

$$p_{i,t}(C=A) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{\tau_i(V_{i,t}(B) - V_{i,t}(A))}}$$

$$V_{i,t+1}^C = V_{i,t}^C + \alpha_i(R_{i,t} - V_{i,t}^C)$$



$$V_{self,t} = [V_{self,t}(A), V_{self,t}(B)]$$

$$V_{other,t} = [V_{other,t}(A), V_{other,t}(B)]$$

$$V_t = \beta_{self} V_{self,t} + \beta_{other} V_{other,t}$$

$$C1_t \sim \text{Categorical}(\text{Softmax}(V_t))$$

$$U_{bet1,t} = \beta_{bias,t} + \beta_{diff,t}(V_{chosen,C1,t} - V_{unchosen,C1,t})$$

$$B1_t \sim \text{OrderedLogistic}(U_{bet1,t} | \theta)$$

$$w.N_{against,t} = \frac{\sum_{s=1}^K w_{s,t}}{\sum_{s=1}^4 w_{s,t}}, K=0,1,...,4$$

$$w.N_{with,t} = \frac{\sum_{s=1}^{4-K} w_{s,t}}{\sum_{s=1}^4 w_{s,t}}$$

$$V_t(\text{switch}) = \beta_{bias,t} + \beta_{diff,t}(V_{chosen,C1,t} - V_{unchosen,C1,t}) + \beta_{against,t} w.N_{against,t}$$

$$C2 \sim \text{Bernoulli}(V_t(\text{switch}))$$

$$U_{bet2,t} = \begin{cases} U_{bet1,t} + \beta_{with,t} w.N_{with,t} + \beta_{against,t} w.N_{against,t}, & \text{if } C1 = C2 \\ U_{bet1,t} + \beta_{with,t} w.N_{with,t} + \beta_{against,t} w.N_{against,t}, & \text{if } C1 \neq C2 \end{cases}$$

$$B2_t \sim \text{OrderedLogistic}(U_{bet2,t} | \theta)$$

$$\Phi(x) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-x}}$$

$$\delta_{self,chosen,C2,t} = R_{self,t} - V_{self,chosen,C2,t}$$

$$\delta_{self,unchosen,C2,t} = -R_{self,t} - V_{self,unchosen,C2,t}$$

$$V_{self,chosen,C2,t+1} = V_{self,chosen,C2,t} + \alpha \delta_{self,chosen,C2,t}$$

$$V_{self,unchosen,C2,t+1} = V_{self,unchosen,C2,t} + \alpha \delta_{self,unchosen,C2,t}$$



an open access  journal

RESEARCH

Revealing Neurocomputational Mechanisms of Reinforcement Learning and Decision-Making With the hBayesDM Package

Woo-Young Ahn¹, Nathaniel Haines¹, and Lei Zhang²

¹Department of Psychology, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH

²Institute for Systems Neuroscience, University Medical Center Hamburg-Eppendorf, Hamburg, Germany

Keywords: reinforcement learning, decision-making, hierarchical Bayesian modeling, model-based fMRI

https://ccs-lab.github.io/hBayesDM/articles/getting_started.html

hBayesDM 1.0.2



Reference

Articles ▾

Changelog

Getting Started

Source: vignettes/getting_started.Rmd

hBayesDM (*h*ierarchical *B*ayesian modeling of *D*ecision-*M*aking tasks) is a user-friendly R package that offers hierarchical Bayesian analysis of various computational models on an array of decision-making tasks. Click [here](#) to download its help file (reference manual). Click [here](#) to read our paper published in Computational Psychiatry. Click [here](#) to download a poster we presented at several conferences/meetings. You can find hBayesDM on [CRAN](#) and [GitHub](#).

Recommended reading: tutorial

Using reinforcement learning models in social neuroscience: frameworks, pitfalls, and suggestions of best practices

AUTHORS

Lei Zhang, Lukas Lengersdorff, Nace Mikus, Jan Gläscher, Claus Lamm

CREATED ON

November 06, 2019

LAST EDITED

March 19, 2020

<https://psyarxiv.com/uthw2>

Ten simple rules for the computational modeling of behavioral data



Robert C Wilson , Anne GE Collins

University of Arizona, United States; University of California, Berkeley, United States

<https://elifesciences.org/articles/49547>

ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

Computational modelling of social cognition and behaviour — a reinforcement learning primer

Patricia L Lockwood , Miriam Klein-Flügge

Social Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience, nsaa040, <https://doi.org/10.1093/scan/nsaa040>

Published: 30 March 2020 **Article history** ▼

<https://academic.oup.com/scan/advance-article/doi/10.1093/scan/nsaa040/5813717>

The Importance of Falsification in Computational Cognitive Modeling

Stefano Palminteri,^{1,2,*,‡} Valentin Wyart,^{1,2,*,‡} and Etienne Koechlin^{1,2,*}

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tics.2017.03.011>

Recommended reading: empirical work

Catecholaminergic challenge uncovers distinct Pavlovian and instrumental mechanisms of motivated (in)action



Jennifer C Swart^a, Monja I Froböse, Jennifer L Cook, Dirk EM Geurts, Michael J Frank, Roshan Cools, Hanneke EM den Ouden^a
Radboud University, The Netherlands; University of Birmingham, United Kingdom; Radboud University Medical Center, The Netherlands; Linguistic and Psychological Sciences, Brown University, United States; Brown University, United States

<https://elifesciences.org/articles/22169>

New Results

[Comment on this paper](#)

A brain network supporting social influences in human decision-making

Lei Zhang, Jan P. Gläscher

doi: <https://doi.org/10.1101/551614>

<https://www.biorxiv.org/content/10.1101/551614v3>

Social threat learning transfers to decision making in humans

Björn Lindström^{a,b,c,1}, Armita Golkar^{c,d}, Simon Jangard^c, Philippe N. Tobler^b, and Andreas Olsson^c

^aDepartment of Social Psychology, University of Amsterdam, 1018 WT Amsterdam, The Netherlands; ^bLaboratory for Social and Neural Systems Research, Department of Economics, University of Zürich, 8001 Zürich, Switzerland; ^cSection for Psychology, Department of Clinical Neuroscience, Karolinska Institutet, 171 77 Stockholm, Sweden; and ^dDepartment of Clinical Psychology, University of Amsterdam, 1018 WT Amsterdam, The Netherlands

<https://www.pnas.org/content/116/10/4732.abstract>

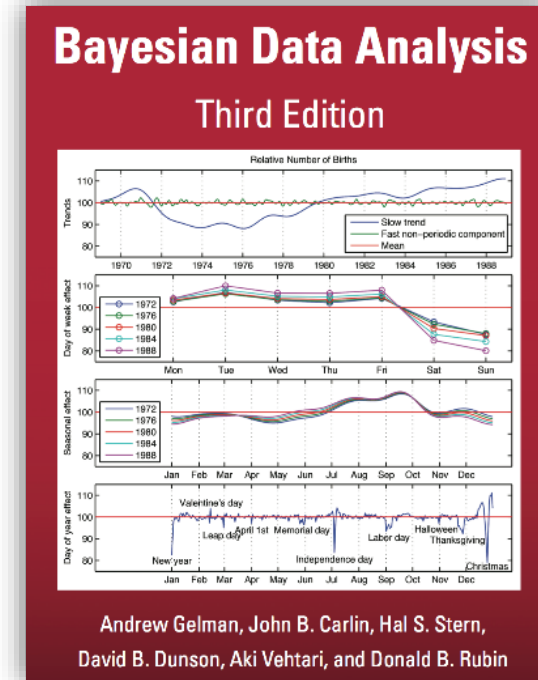
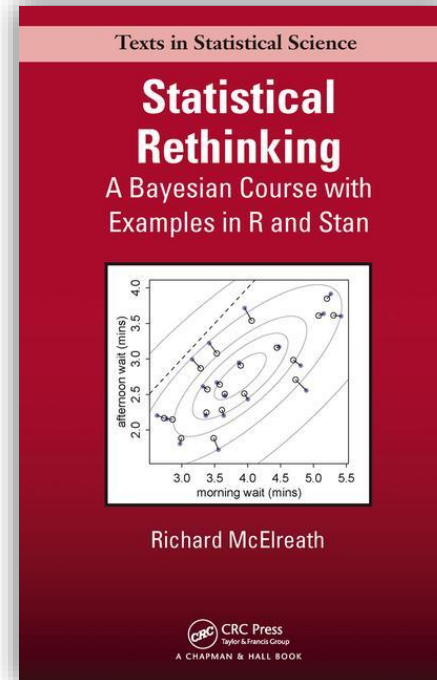
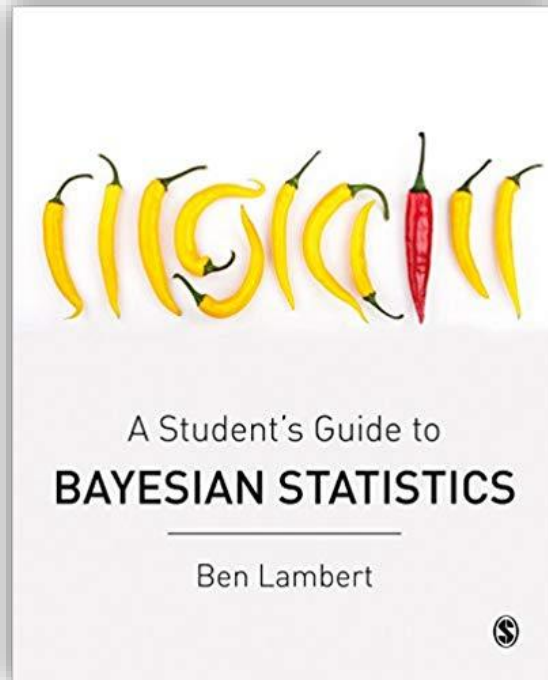
Article

Primate Amygdala Neurons Simulate Decision Processes of Social Partners

Fabian Grabenhorst^{1, 5}  , Raymundo Báez-Mendoza^{1, 4}, Wilfried Genest¹, Gustavo Deco^{2, 3}, Wolfram Schultz¹

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0092867419302259>

Recommended reading: book



Summary

- Computational modeling is never new → don't let it fear you!
- Learn some statistics (e.g., different statistical distributions)
- Learn some math (e.g., linear algebra)
- Learn some programming (e.g., R/Python/Julia/Matlab)
- Learn to seek external help (e.g., existing packages)
- Learn in pairs; practice makes perfect!



Richard McElreath
@r1mcelreath



I say this a lot, bc I am also confused quite often.



Anna Jacobson @AnnaChingChing · Feb 21

"If you are confused, it is only because you are trying to understand." -
@r1mcelreath in Statistical Rethinking

Contact



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@lei-zhang



ANY
QUESTIONS
?

Happy Computing!