# Multinomial Processing Tree Models of Recognition Memory

Joachim Vandekerckhove and Michael Lee

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- MPTs are usually applied to categorical data
  - e.g., discrete decisions rather than continuous response times
- MPTs make assumptions about how the different categories of behavior could be generated, in terms of probabilistic processes controlled by underlying psychological variables

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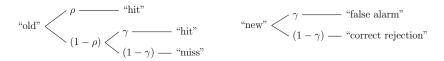
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- Behavior can be summarized in terms of four counts

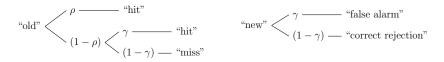
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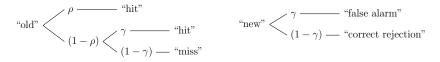
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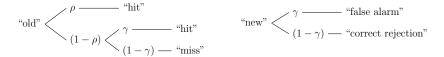
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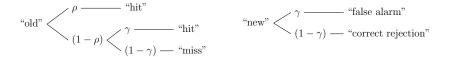
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- The model has two parameters
  - $\, \bullet \,$  a probability  $\rho$  of remembering a studied item when it is presented during testing
  - $\, \bullet \,$  a probability  $\gamma$  of guessing by responding "old" if there is no memory of the item



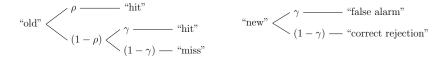
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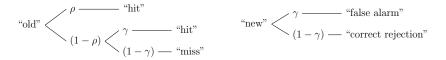
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 These data come from a clinical setting, and involve memory ability tests for 60 patients using the Rey auditory verbal learning test (Bean 2011)

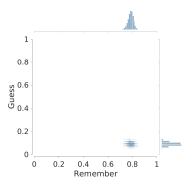
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- Patients also had a cerebrospinal fluid measurement taken to classify their levels beta amyloid as "positive" or "negative"
  - amyloid positivity is thought to be a pre-symptomatic indicator of Alzheimer's disease

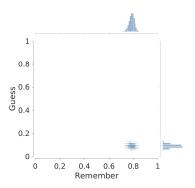
Amyloid Status	Hits	False Alarms
positive	8	4
negative	12	1
negative	14	0
positive	9	4
		• • •

# **Amyloid Negative inferences**



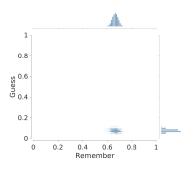
 The figure shows the joint and marginal posterior distributions for the remembering and guessing parameters

# **Amyloid Negative inferences**



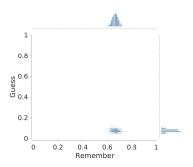
- The figure shows the joint and marginal posterior distributions for the remembering and guessing parameters
- Patients remember around 80% of the items, and guess "old" about 10% of the time when they do not remember

#### **Amyloid Positive Inferences**

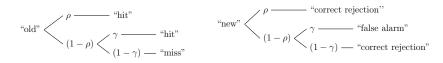


 Patients remember around 60-70% of the items, and guess "old" about 10% of the time when they do not remember

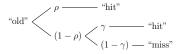
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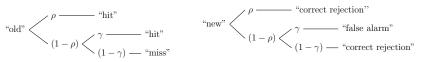


- Patients remember around 60-70% of the items, and guess "old" about 10% of the time when they do not remember
- Very similar guessing behavior to amyloid negative group, but lower probability of remembering

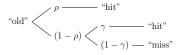


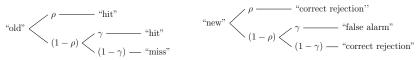
 The two-high threshold MPT model has the same two parameters, and still assumes that a participant has some probability of remembering an item was on the study list



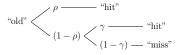


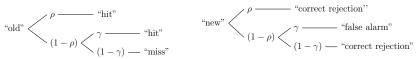
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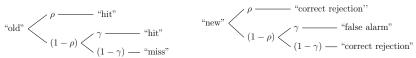


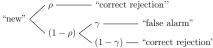
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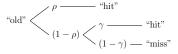


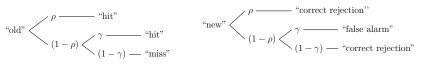
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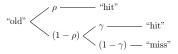


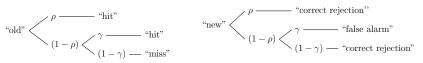
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  - 3. if they do not remember the item, they guess



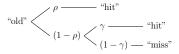


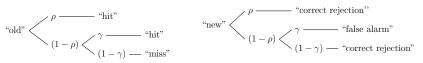
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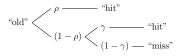


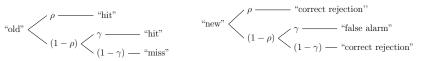
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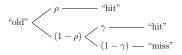


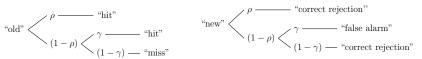
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- But they do change how false alarms are produced



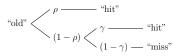


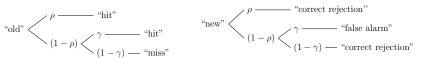
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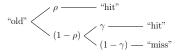
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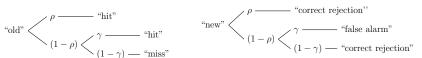




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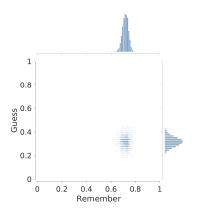
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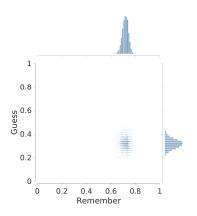
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## Amyloid negative inferences



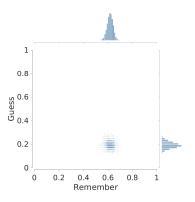
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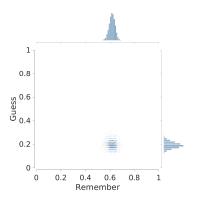
- The figure shows the joint and marginal posterior distributions for the remembering and guessing parameters
- Patients remember around 70-80% of the items, and guess "old" about 30% of the time when they do not remember

## Amyloid positive inferences



 Patients remember around 60% of the items, and guess "old" about 20% of the time when they do not remember

## **Amyloid positive inferences**



- Patients remember around 60% of the items, and guess "old" about 20% of the time when they do not remember
- The remembering rate is lower, and the guessing rate now also differs between the amyloid negative and positive groups

#### Key points

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- MPT models make assumptions about how categorical observed behavior can be decomposed into sequences of probabilistic events
- The one-high threshold and two-high threshold models of recognition memory are widely-used MPT models
- The inferences for the amyloid positivity data showed meaningful differences between the clinical groups, but the exact nature of the differences in remembering and guessing depends on the model

#### References

- Batchelder, W. H., and D. M. Riefer. 1980. "Separation of Storage and Retrieval Factors in Free Recall of Clusterable Pairs."

  Psychological Review 87: 375–97.
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- Erdfelder, Edgar, Tina-Sarah Auer, Benjamin E Hilbig, André Aßfalg, Morten Moshagen, and Lena Nadarevic. 2009. "Multinomial Processing Tree Models: A Review of the Literature." Zeitschrift für Psychologie/Journal of Psychology 217: 108–24.