

A Linear Mixed-Effects Models approach to obtain Rasch-like estimates of accuracies and response times from fully-crossed design data

Rasch 2.0

Ottavia M. Epifania
University of Trento
`ottavia.epifania@unitn.it`

AIP 2025, Torino

September, 12, 2025

An example: The Implicit Association Test

Coke
Good

Pepsi
Bad

Check the categories – Press Space Bar to continue

An example: The Implicit Association Test

Coke
Good

Pepsi
Bad



Response key: E

A

T

Pepsi
Bad



◀ ◻ ▶ ◀ ◻ ▶ ◀ ≡ ▶ ◀ ≡ ▶ ≡ ≡ ≡ ↺ 🔍 ↻

A

T

Pepsi
Bad

terrible

Response key: I

An example: The Implicit Association Test

Coke
Good

Pepsi
Bad

glory

Response key: E

An example: The Implicit Association Test

① The “natural” one (so called *compatible* condition)

I love Coke and its easier to associate these stimuli to positive attributes

② The “innatural” one (so *incompatible* condition)

I love Coke and its harder to associate these stimuli to negative stimuli

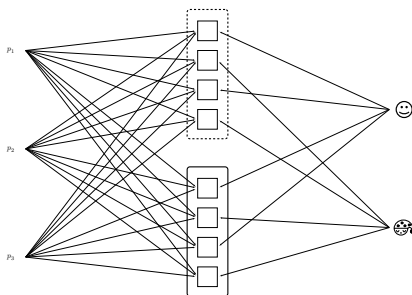
An example: The Implicit Association Test

① The “natural” one (so called *compatible* condition)

I love Coke and its easier to associate these stimuli to positive attributes

② The “innatural” one (so *incompatible* condition)

I love Coke and its harder to associate these stimuli to negative stimuli



Person-level scores

$$s_p = \frac{\bar{X}_{p,\text{comp}} - \bar{X}_{p,\text{inc}}}{sd_{\text{pooled}}}$$

Person-level scores

$$s_p = \frac{\bar{X}_{p,\text{comp}} - \bar{X}_{p,\text{inc}}}{sd_{\text{pooled}}}$$

💡 Advantages

Ease of computation

Ease of interpretation

Person-level scores

$$s_p = \frac{\bar{X}_{p,\text{comp}} - \bar{X}_{p,\text{inc}}}{sd_{\text{pooled}}}$$

💡 Advantages

Ease of computation
Ease of interpretation

⚠️ (Implicit) Assumptions

- ① Being slow (less accurate) in one condition = being fast (or more accurate) in the opposite one: 0 means absence of bias
- ② All stimuli have the same impact (fixed effects)

A long tradition

i Respondents are random factors

Sampled from a larger population

Need for acknowledging the sampling variability

Results can be generalized to other respondents belonging to the same population

A long tradition

i Respondents are random factors

Sampled from a larger population

Need for acknowledging the sampling variability

Results can be generalized to other respondents belonging to the same population

i Stimuli/items are fixed factors

Taken to be entire population

There is no sampling variability

There is no need to generalize the results because the stimuli are the population

The issue

- Generalization of the results is impaired
- Error variance everywhere, left free to bias everything
- The information at the stimulus level is lost

- Generalization of the results is impaired
- Error variance everywhere, left free to bias everything
- The information at the stimulus level is lost

$$\Sigma$$

Linear Mixed Effects Models

$$\psi$$

Rasch model

- Generalization of the results is impaired
- Error variance everywhere, left free to bias everything
- The information at the stimulus level is lost

 Σ

Linear Mixed Effects Models

 ψ

Rasch model



Rasch-like parametrization estimated with Linear Mixed Effects Models

i Rasch

$$P(x_{ps} = 1) = \frac{\exp(\theta_p - b_s)}{1 + \exp(\theta_p - b_s)}$$

! GLM (inverse function)

$$P(x_{ps} = 1) = \frac{\exp(\theta_p + b_s)}{1 + \exp(\theta_p + b_s)}$$

i Rasch

$$P(x_{ps} = 1) = \frac{\exp(\theta_p - b_s)}{1 + \exp(\theta_p - b_s)}$$

i Log-normal

$$E(t_{ps}) = \delta_s - \tau_p$$

! GLM (inverse function)

$$P(x_{ps} = 1) = \frac{\exp(\theta_p + b_s)}{1 + \exp(\theta_p + b_s)}$$

! LM (identity function)

$$E(t_{ps}) = \delta_s + \tau_p + \varepsilon$$

In a LM:

$$\eta = \mathbf{X}\beta$$

\mathbf{X} : Model Matrix

β : Coefficients

Needs to be extended:

$$\eta = \mathbf{X}\beta + \mathbf{Z}d$$

d : Random effects associated to the random factors in Z ... Not model parameters! *Best Linear Unbiased Predictors*

Γ : Parameters estimated for the random factors in the model (variances and covariances)

Models

Model 1

$$y = \beta_c X_c + \alpha_{p[i]} + \alpha_{s[i]}$$

Model 2

$$y = \beta_c X_c + \alpha_{p[i]} + \beta_{s[i]} c_i$$

Model 3

$$y = \beta_c X_c + \beta_{p[i]} c_i + \alpha_{s[i]}$$

Parametrizations

	GLMM	LMM
Model 1		
respondents	θ_p	τ_p
stimuli	b_s	δ_s
Model 2		
respondents	θ_p	τ_p
stimuli	b_{sc}	δ_{sc}
Model 3		
respondents	θ_{pc}	τ_{pc}
stimuli	b_s	δ_s

$p = 1, \dots, P$: Respondent, $s = 1, \dots, S$: Stimulus, $c \in \{0, 1\}$ Associative condition, i Trial

All models are wrong...

Find the useful model via model comparison: AIC and BIC

The lower the value, the better the model

! AIC, BIC, and model complexity:

Total number of parameters: β and Γ
NOT the levels in d

Model 2 and Model 3: Same complexity, different focus

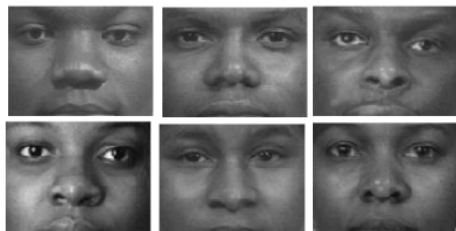
The chosen model is the least wrong model *given the considered models*

12 Object stimuli

White people faces



Black people faces



16 Attribute stimuli

Positive attributes

Good, laughter, pleasure, glory, peace, happy, joy, love

Negative attributes

Evil, bad, horrible, terrible, nasty, pain, failure, hate

Best Fitting Models

GLMMs

Model 2

θ_p
 b_{WGBB} and b_{BGWB}

The IAT effect is mostly due to variations in the *stimuli functioning* between conditions, while the performance of the respondents seems unaltered

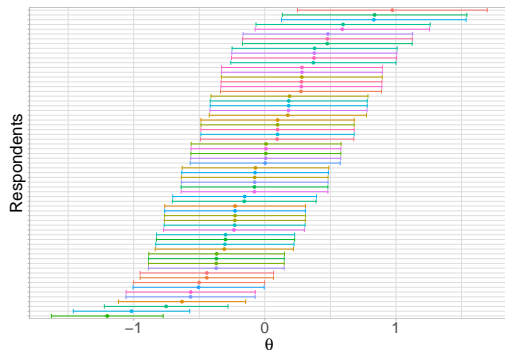
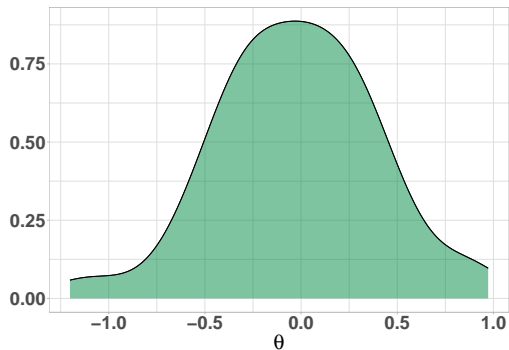
LMMs

Model 3

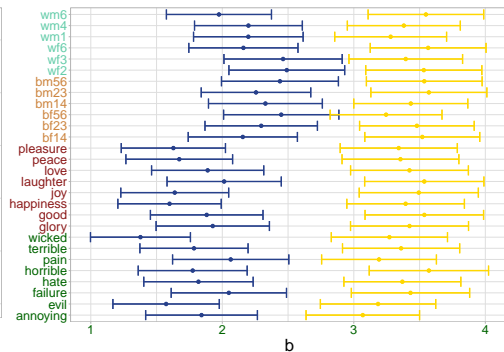
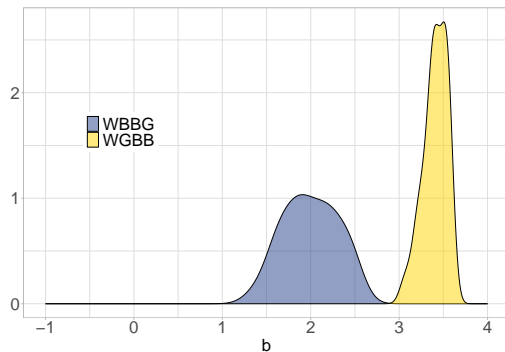
τ_{WGBB} and τ_{BGWB}
 δ_s

The IAT effect is mostly due to variations in the *performance of the respondents* between conditions, while the functioning of the stimuli appears not affected

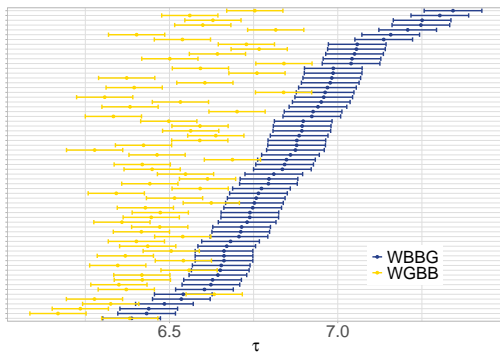
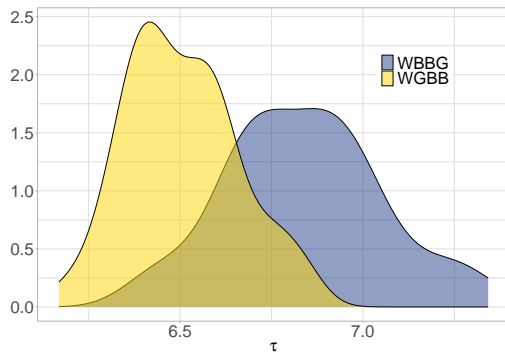
Rasch-like estimates

 θ_p 

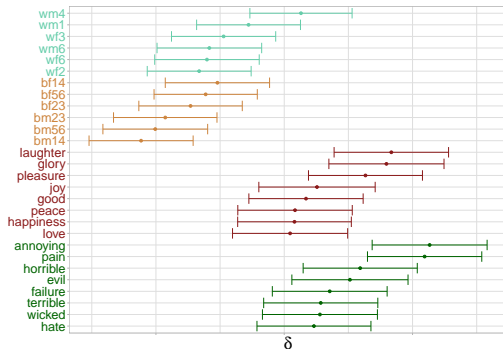
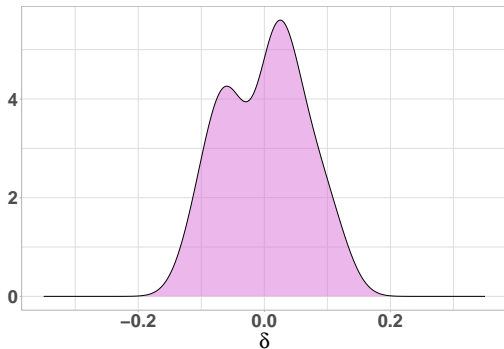
Rasch-like estimates

 b_{WBBG} and b_{WGBB} 

Log-normal estimates

 τ_{WGBB} and τ_{BGBW} 

Log-normal estimates

 δ_s 

- The best model depends on the other models... sometimes useful, never right
- The sky is the limit... but do not over complicate things

- The best model depends on the other models... sometimes useful, never right
- The sky is the limit... but do not over complicate things

HOWEVER

- Time and accuracy are independent from one another, pretty bold assumption

- The best model depends on the other models... sometimes useful, never right
- The sky is the limit... but do not over complicate things

HOWEVER

- Time and accuracy are independent from one another, pretty bold assumption



© 2024 American Psychological Association
ISSN: 1082-989X

Psychological Methods

<https://doi.org/10.1037/met0000708>

A Guided Tutorial on Linear Mixed-Effects Models for the Analysis of Accuracies and Response Times in Experiments With Fully Crossed Design

Ottavia M. Epifania, Pasquale Anselmi, and Egidio Robusto

Department of Philosophy, Sociology, Education and Applied Psychology, University of Padova

<https://doi.org/10.1037/met0000708>