

# ERROR-DRIVEN LEARNING

for modeling language acquisition

Dorothée Hoppe & Jacolien van Rij  
October 2019, Formal Models of Cognition



## OVERVIEW

**Today:**

1. Introduction error-driven learning
2. Lab session 1 / assignment

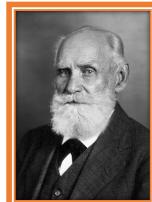
**Friday:**

1. Cue competition
2. Lab session 2 / assignment

# HISTORIC CONTEXT

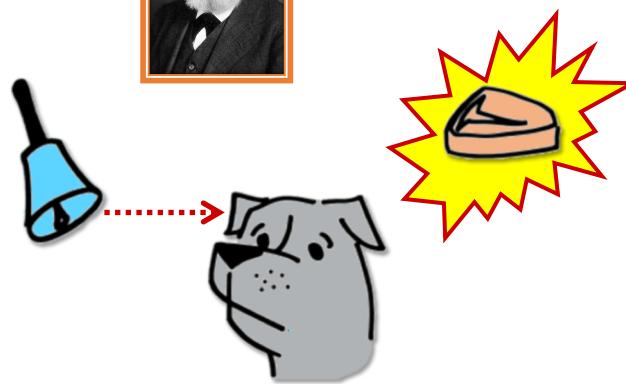
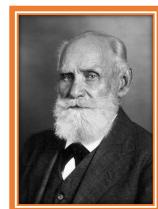
## CONDITIONING

- ❑ Pavlov, I.P. (1927):  
*Conditional Reflexes*



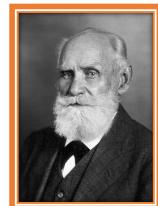
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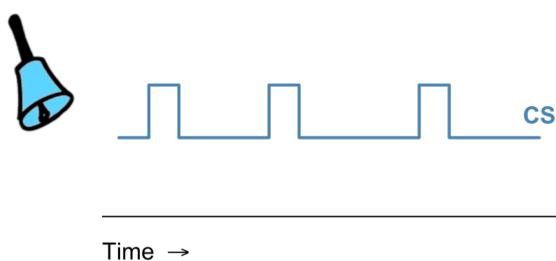
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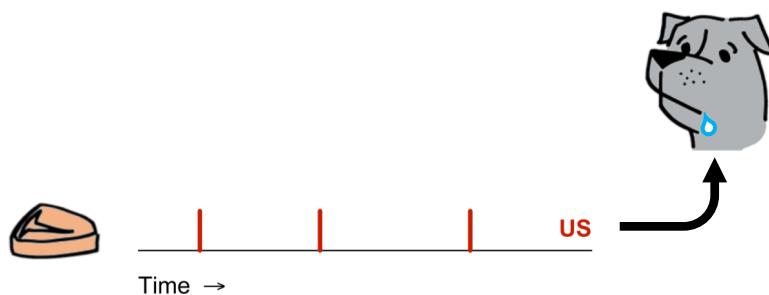
## CONDITIONING

- ☐ **Conditioned stimulus (CS):** neutral stimulus, initially no response



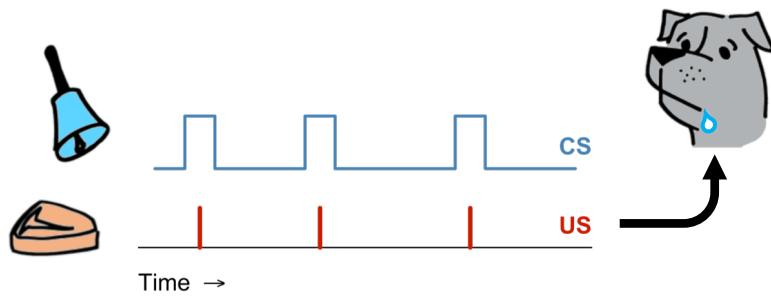
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- ☐ **Conditioned stimulus (CS):** neutral stimulus, initially no response
- ☐ **Unconditioned stimulus (US):** stimulus consistently eliciting response – the unconditioned response (UR)



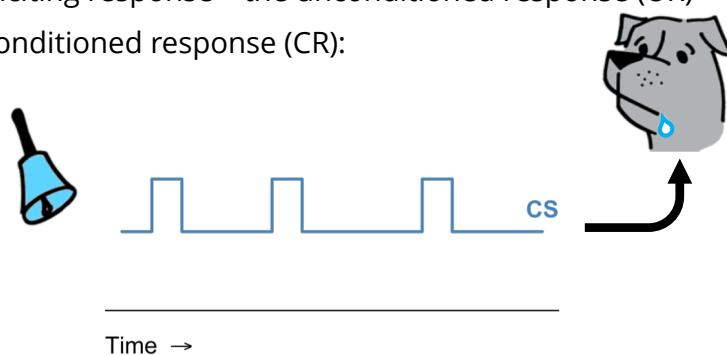
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- ❑ **Conditioned stimulus (CS):** neutral stimulus, initially no response
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- ❑ Conditioned response (CR):

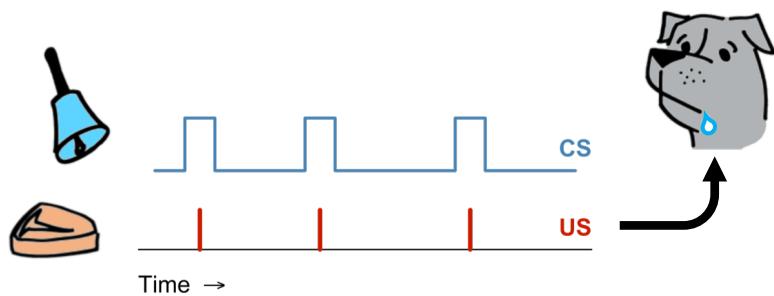


## CONDITIONING

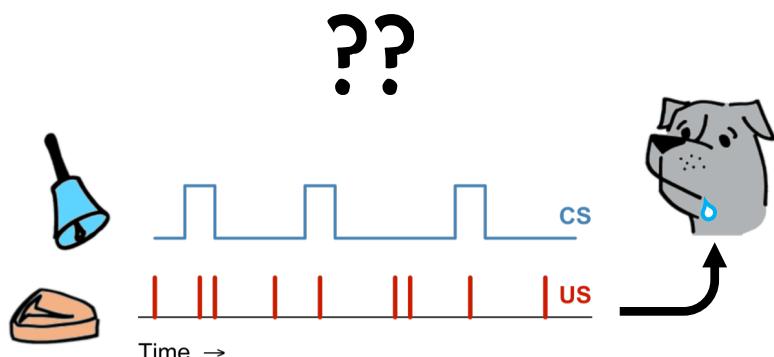
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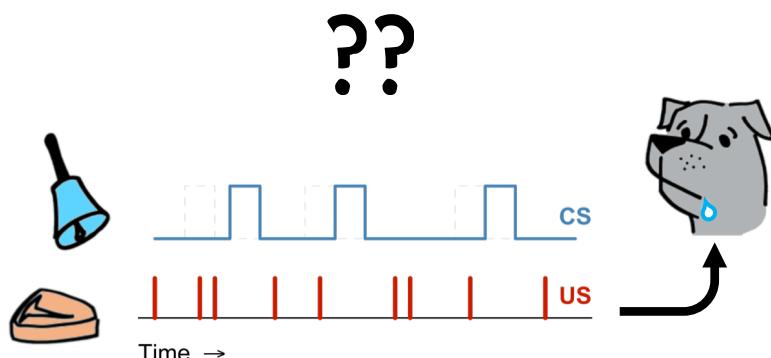
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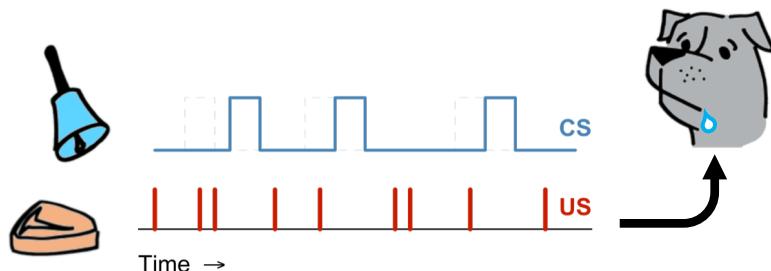


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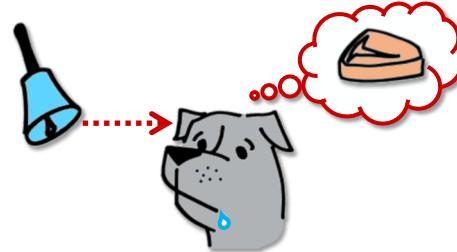


# CONDITIONING

- Rescorla (1988):
  - Co-occurrence of CS and US is not sufficient
  - Co-occurrence of CS and US is not necessary



## CONDITIONING REVISITED

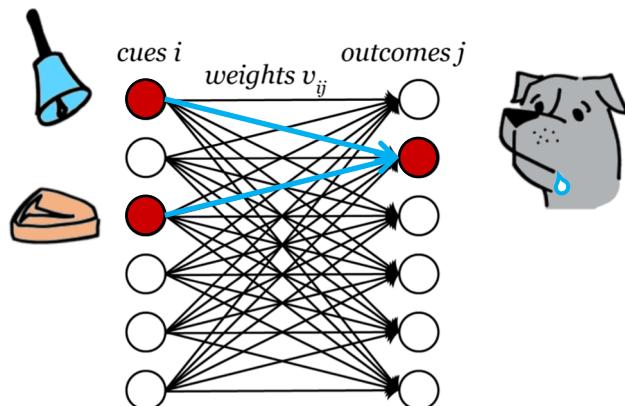


- ❑ **Pavlov (1927):** Associations increase in strength when events or objects co-occur
- ❑ **Rescorla & Wagner (1972):** Additionally, cues (events, objects that occur) influence associations with events/objects that are *not* present

## ERROR-DRIVEN LEARNING

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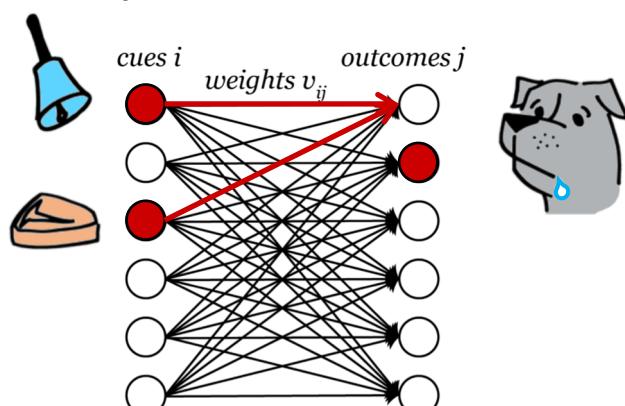
- Memory is represented as feed-forward two-layer network, fully connected



From: Hoppe et al (in preparation)

## ERROR-DRIVEN LEARNING

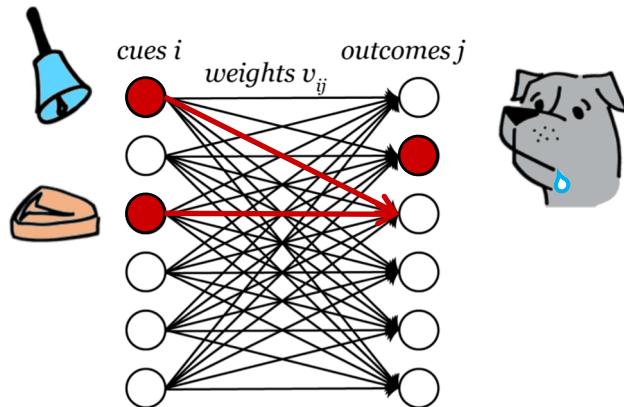
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## ERROR-DRIVEN LEARNING

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## ERROR-DRIVEN LEARNING

- ❑ Association strength  $V$  between cue  $i$  and outcome  $j$  is calculated as follows:

$$V_{ij}^{t+1} = V_{ij}^t + \Delta V_{ij}^t$$

- $\Delta V_{ij}^t$  depends on one of three learning situations:



- $\neg C_i$ : cue  $i$  is absent



- $C_i \& O_j$ : cue  $i$  is present and outcome  $j$  is present



- $C_i \& \neg O_j$ : cue  $i$  is present and outcome  $j$  is absent

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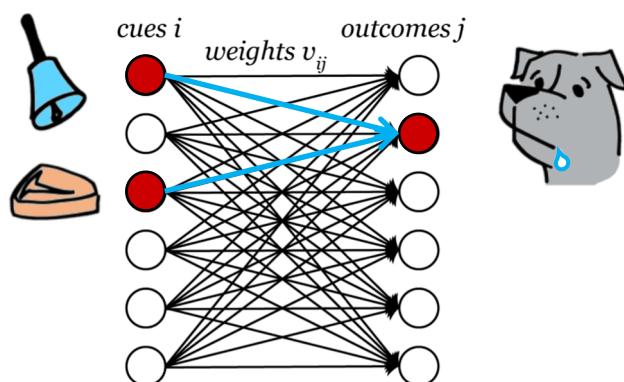
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-  o  $\neg C_i$ : 0
-  o  $C_i \& O_i$ :  $\Delta V_{ij}^t = \eta(1 - a_j^t)$        $a_j^t = \sum_{x \in \text{cues}(t)} v_{xj}^t$
-  o  $C_i \& \neg O_i$ :  $\Delta V_{ij}^t = \eta(0 - a_j^t)$

## ACTIVATION

- Activation:  $\alpha_j^t = \sum_{x \in \text{cues}(t)} v_{xj}^t$

- Sum of weights of all cues present at current time  $t$



From: Hoppe et al (in preparation)

## ACTIVATION

- **Activation:**  $\alpha_j^t = \sum_{x \in \text{cues}(t)} v_{xj}^t$ 
  - Sum of weights of all cues present at current time t
  - Determined per outcome

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# EXAMPLE

## PAIRED-ASSOCIATE LEARNING

- Common experimental paradigm:
  - learning word pairings
  - many versions
    - PAL subtest of Wechsler's Memory Scale (des Rosiers & Ivison, 1986): one word acts as cue, the other as outcome
    - measure of people's ability to learn and recall information
      - performance decreases with age: slower and less accurate

Sun et al (2019)

## TRAINING

- Different word pairs:

up	down
murder	crime
jury	eagle
baby	cries
...	



association rates /  
co occurrences

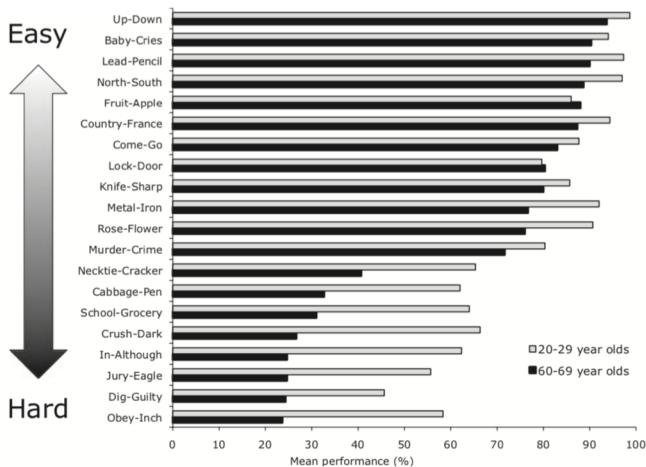
## PAIRED-ASSOCIATE LEARNING

- Performance decreases with age

- but only on the hard items (Ramscar et al, 2014; Sun et al, 2019)

Sun et al (2019)

## PAIRED-ASSOCIATE LEARNING



Ramscar et al (2014)

## PAIRED-ASSOCIATE LEARNING

- ❑ Error-driven learning model of paired-associate learning (Sun et al, 2019)
- ❑ Factors influencing learnability of the word pairs:
  1. association rates
  2. frequency of words (without other words)
  3. experience and blocking

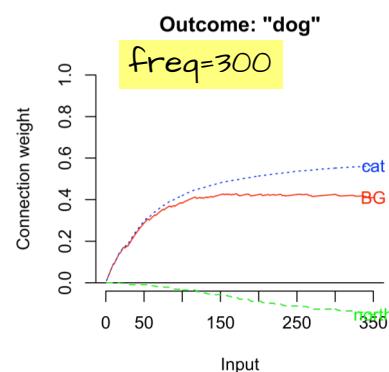
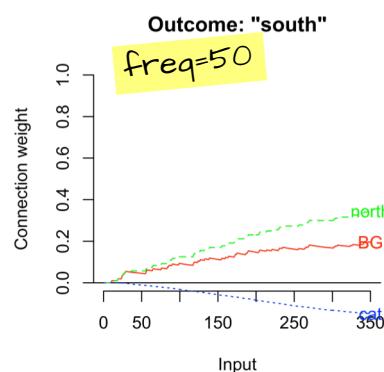
# 1. ASSOCIATION RATES

- Example data set (Sun et al, 2019):

Cues	Outcomes	Frequency
BG_North	South	50
BG_Cat	Dog	100

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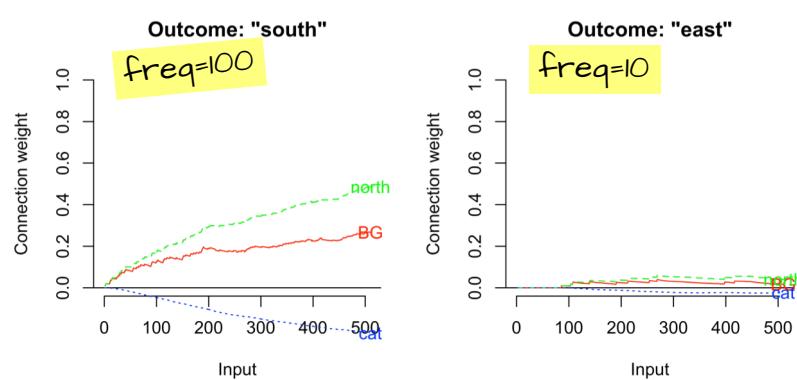
## 2. FREQUENCY

- Example data set (Sun et al, 2019):

Cues	Outcomes	Frequency
BG_North	South	100
BG_Cat	Dog	100
BG_North	East	10
BG_Cat	Mouse	300

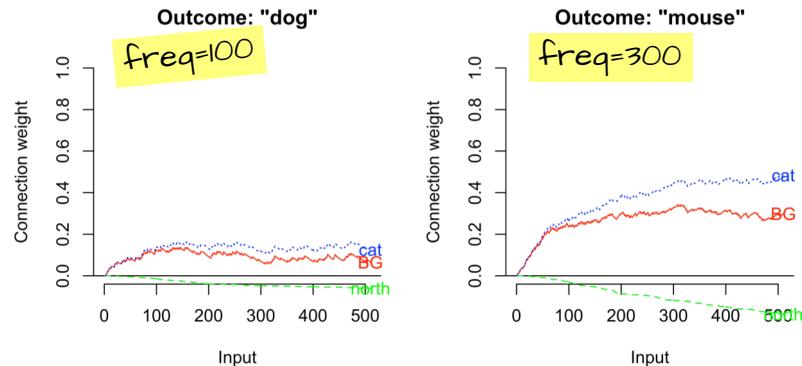
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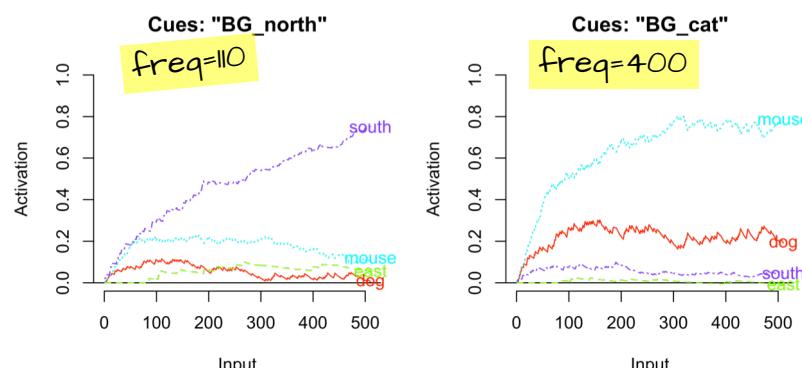
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- Activation per event (set of cues):



## 3. EXPERIENCE

- Example data set 1 (Sun et al, 2019):

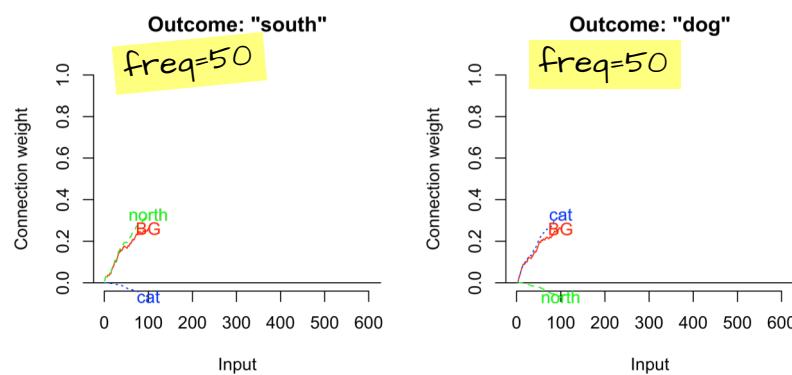
Cues	Outcomes	Frequency
BG_North	South	100   300
BG_Cat	Dog	100   300

- Example data set 2 (Sun et al, 2019):

Cues	Outcomes	Frequency
BG_North	South	1
BG_Cat	Dog	1
BG_Banana	Dog	1
BG_North	Dog	1

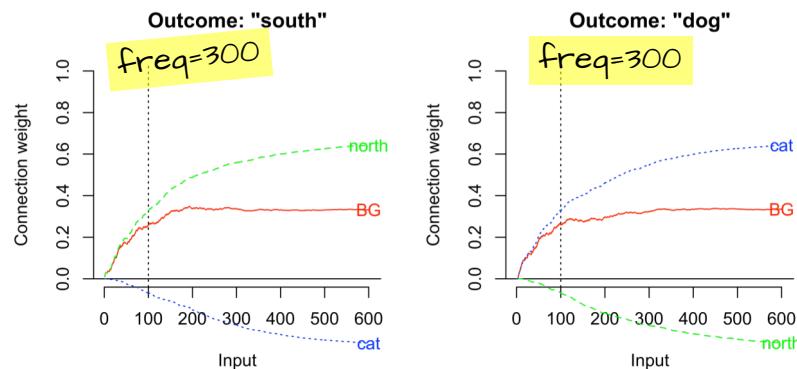
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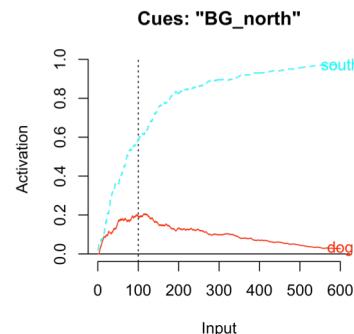
- ❑ Example data set 2 (Sun et al, 2019):

Cues	Outcomes	Frequency
BG_North	South	1
BG_Cat	Dog	1
BG_Banana	Dog	1
BG_North	Dog	1

### 3. EXPERIENCE

```
# Freq = 50
      south    dog
BG     0.261  0.259
north  0.328 -0.069
cat    -0.067  0.328
```

```
# Freq = 300
      south    dog
BG     0.332  0.335
north  0.642 -0.308
cat    -0.310  0.642
```

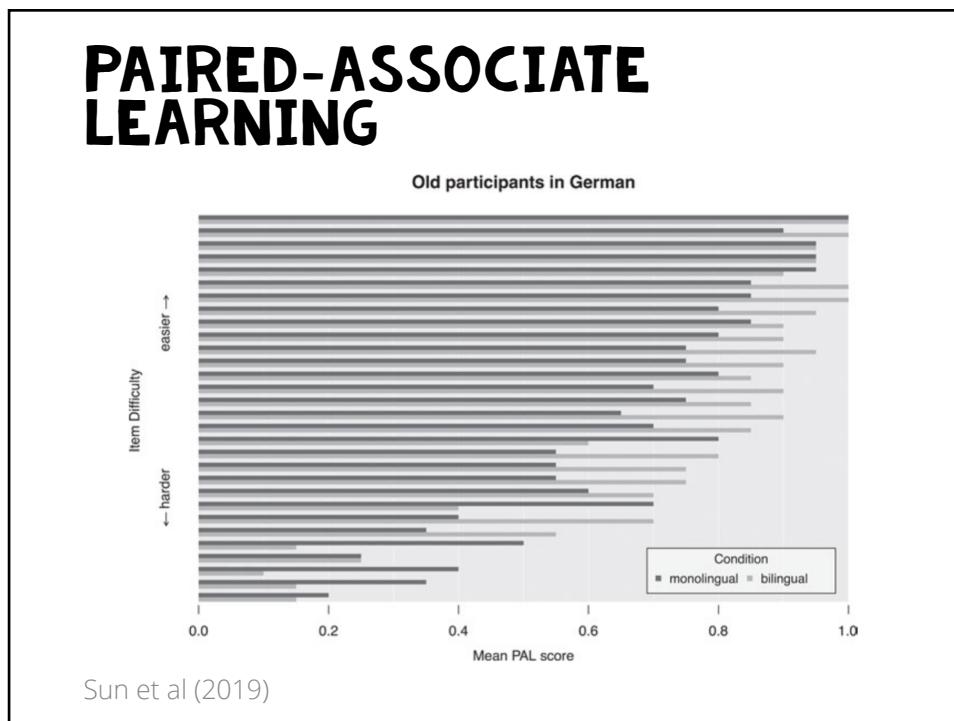
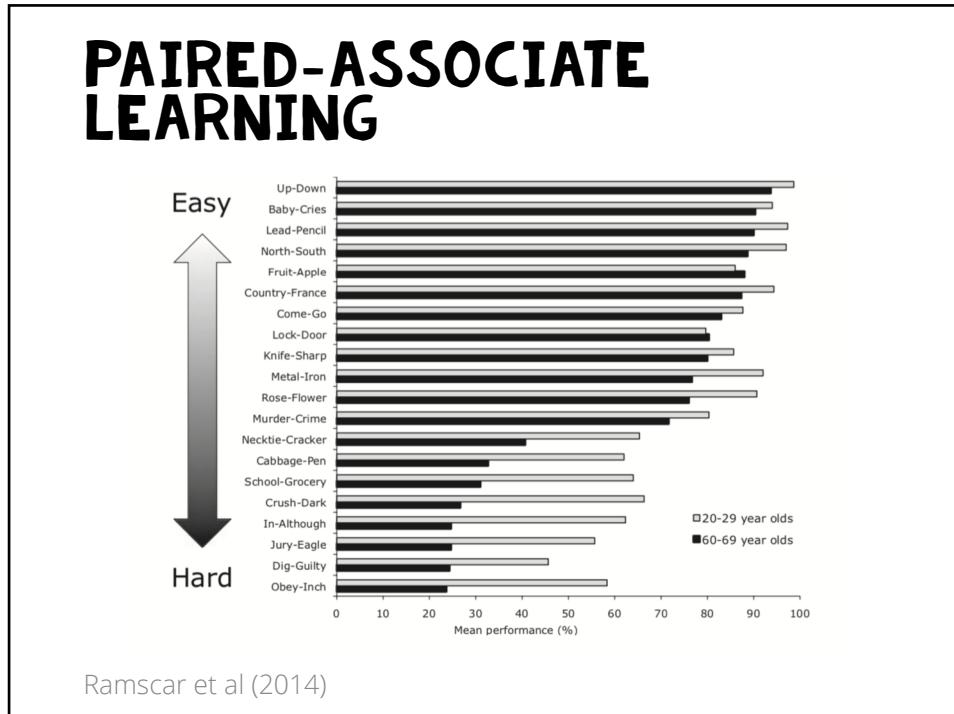


$$\Delta V_{ij}^{t+1} = \eta(\lambda - \alpha_j^t)$$

### PAIRED-ASSOCIATE LEARNING

- Performance decreases with age
  - but only on the hard items (Ramscar et al, 2014; Sun et al, 2019)
    - error-driven learning simulations: more experience with language make it more difficult to learn uncommon word pairs
    - Support from PAL test in L2 (second language)

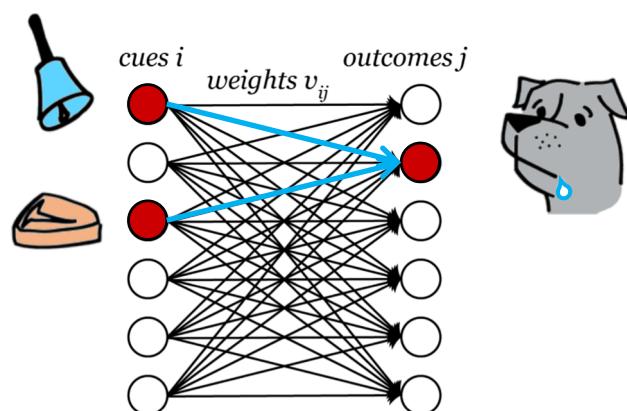
Sun et al (2019)



# DISCUSSION

## SUPERVISED LEARNING?

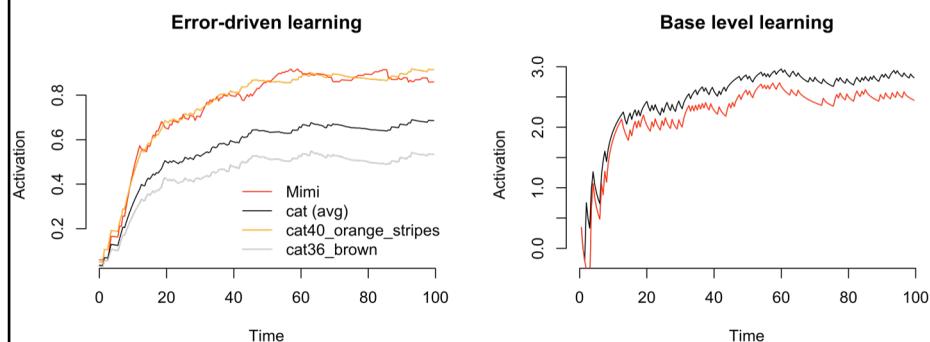
- ❑ No, adjusting predictions based on experience



From: Hoppe et al (in preparation)

## ACTIVATION & TIME DECAY?

- ❑ No, activation changes irrespective of time



## DISCUSSION

- ❑ Advantages:
  - Insight in how structure of input affects learning
  - No hidden layers, so learning dynamics can be studied
- ❑ Limitations:
  - Not a process model
  - Representations defined by the user. Too high/low level of abstraction may miss learning effects

