

# An Architecture Approach to Modeling the Remote Associates Test

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University of Michigan

# Outline

## 1. Background

- a. Overview of spreading activation
- b. Overview of the Remote Associates Test (RAT)

## 2. Work Done

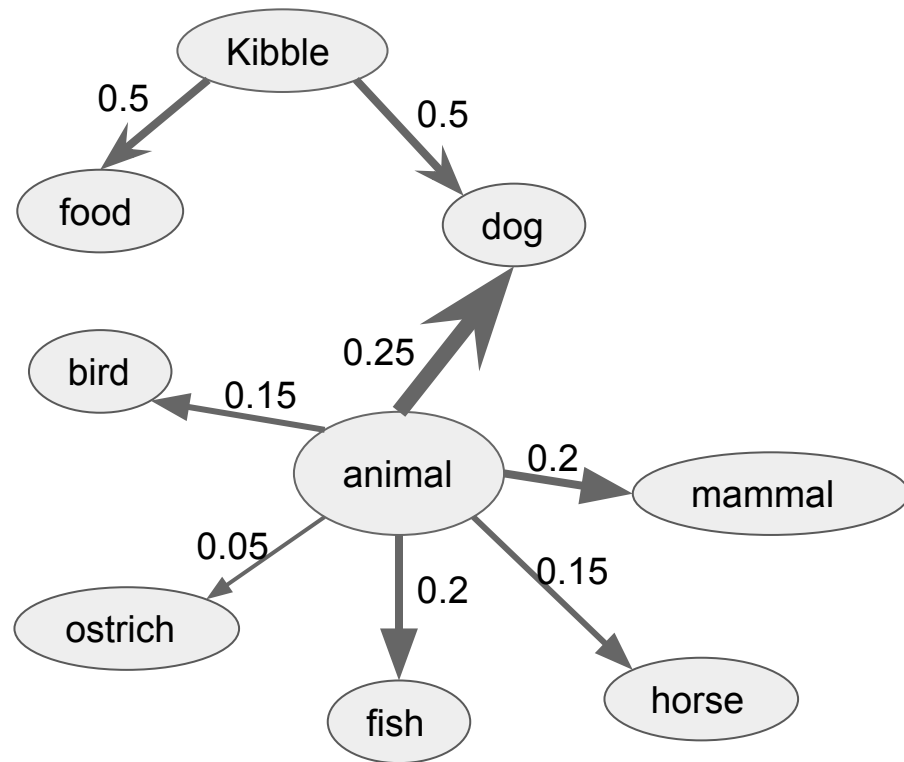
- a. Description of the knowledge base
- b. Description of the two cognitive process models

## 3. Results

- a. Modifications

# Overview

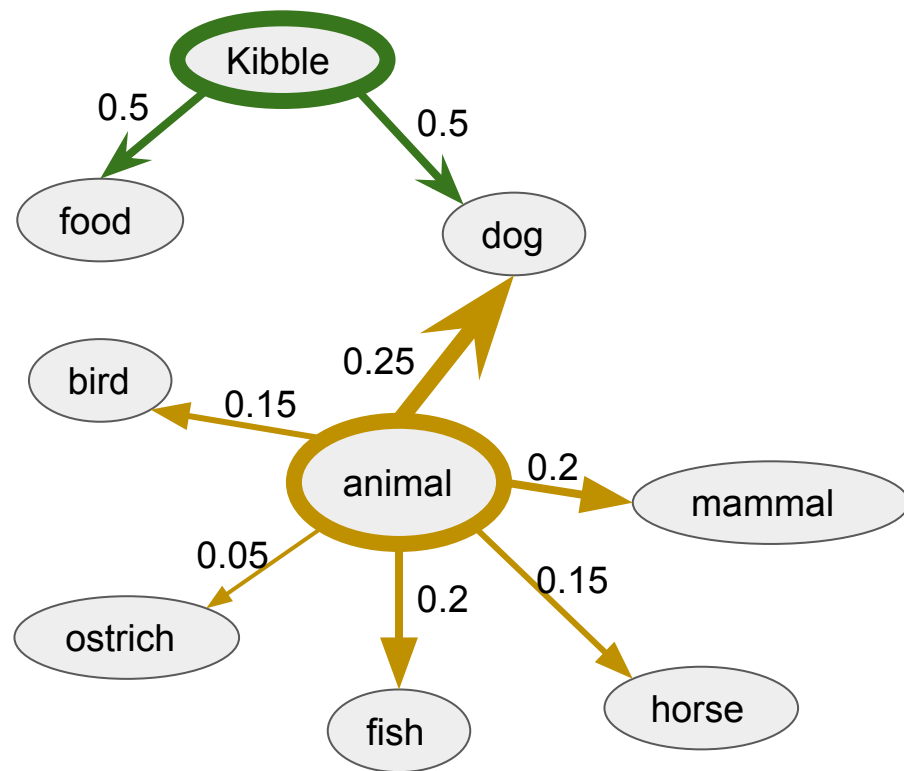
What is  
associated  
to animal?



# Overview

What is associated to animal?

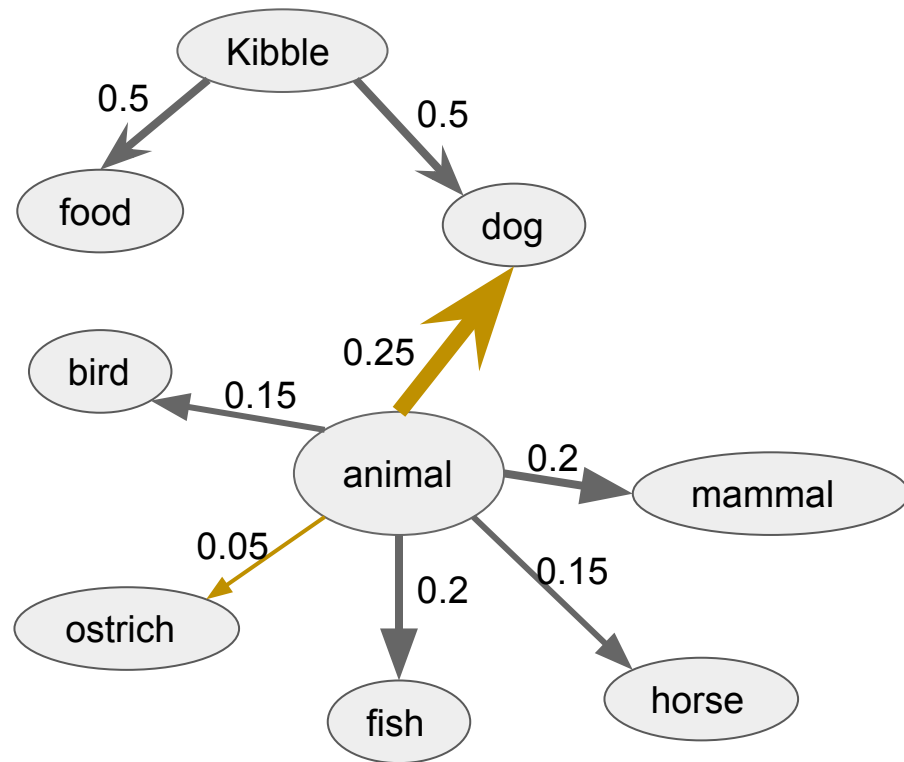
- Fan



# Overview

What is  
associated  
to animal?

- Fan
- Association Strength



# The Remote Associates Test (RAT)

Given three words, what is a fourth word that is associated with all three words?

Swiss

Cake

Cottage

cheese

Mednick, S. (1962). The associative basis of the creative process. *Psychological Review*, 69(3), 220-232.

Bowden, E. M., & Jung-Beeman, M. (2003). Normative data for 144 compound remote associate problems. *Behavior Research Methods, Instruments, & Computers*, 35 (4), 634–639.

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Given three words, what is a fourth word that is associated with all three words?

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# Cognitive Process Models

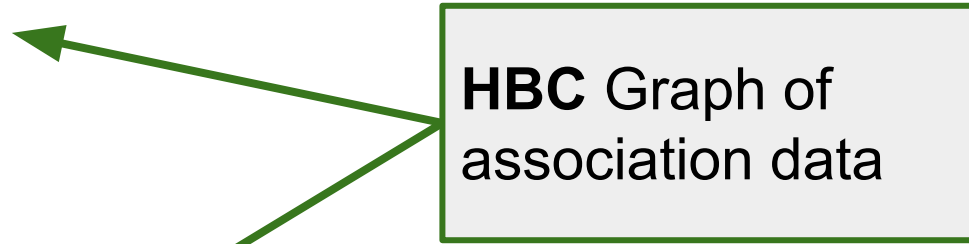
## Knowledge Base

### Cued Retrieval Model

Relies on queries with hard constraints

### Free Recall Model

Relies on spreading activation. AKA fan and association strength



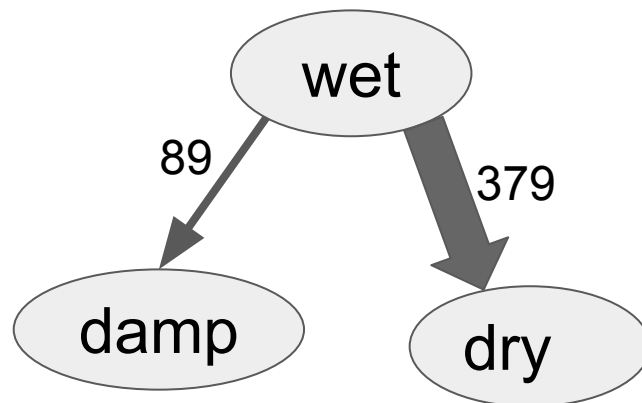
# Human Brain Cloud (HBC) Knowledge Base

- 231,851 unique words
- 2,403,203 associations between words

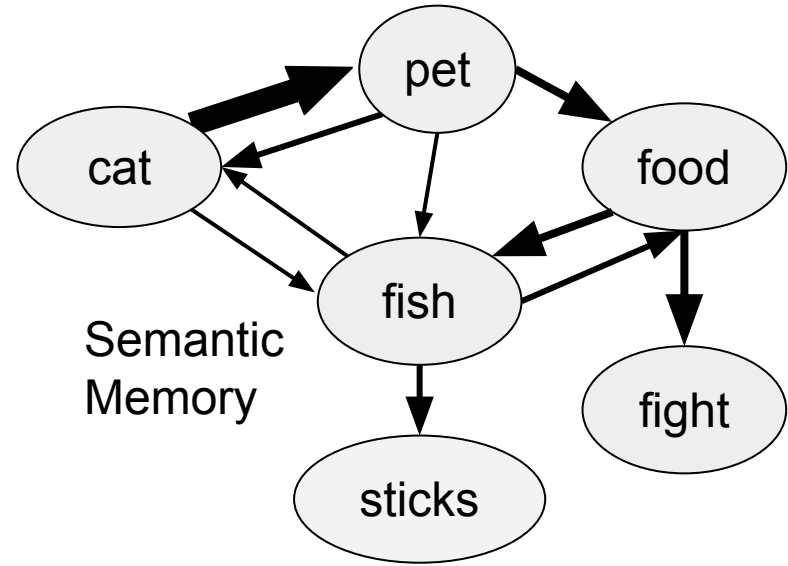
## Data from HBC

word1	word2	Association count
dry	wet	379
damp	wet	89

## Semantic Memory

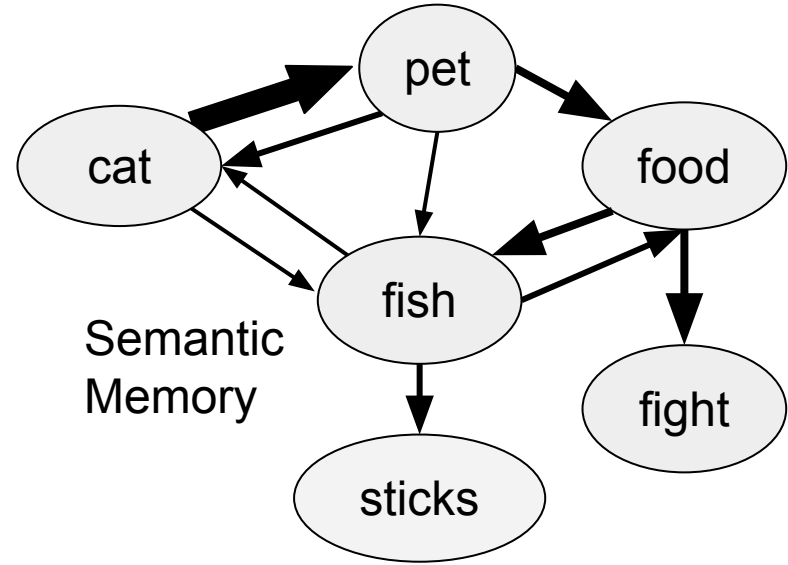


# Cued Retrieval Model



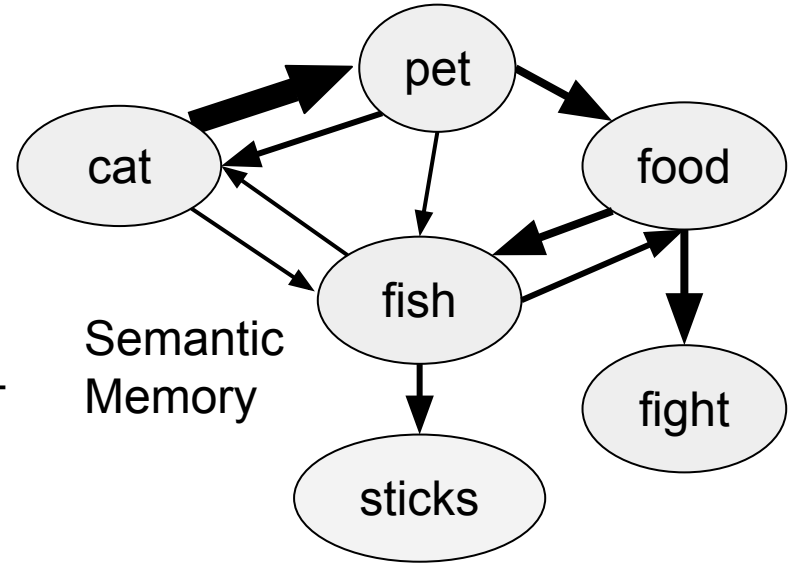
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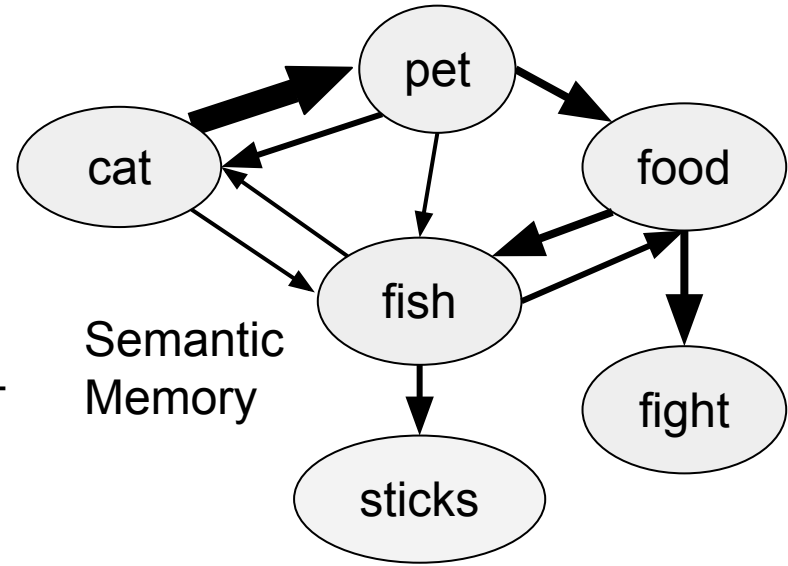
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2. Model queries its memory for a word directly associated with all 3 given RAT items



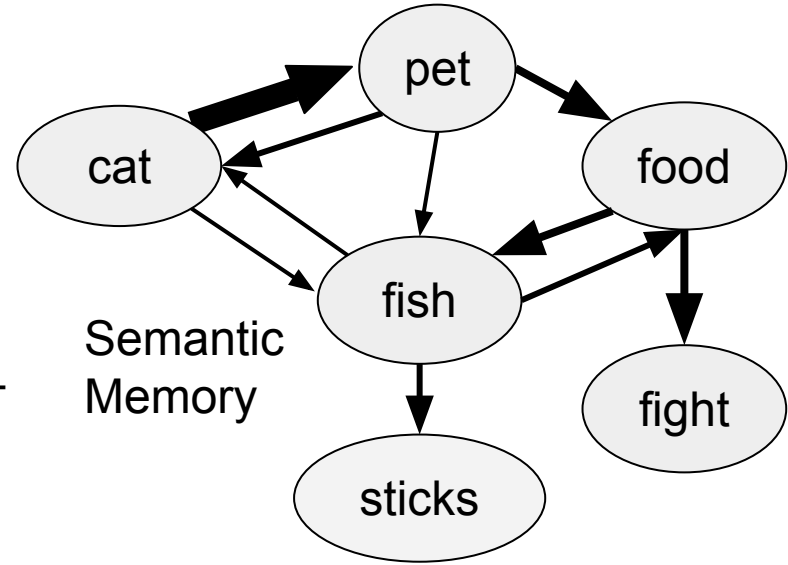
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  - a. Receives “fish”



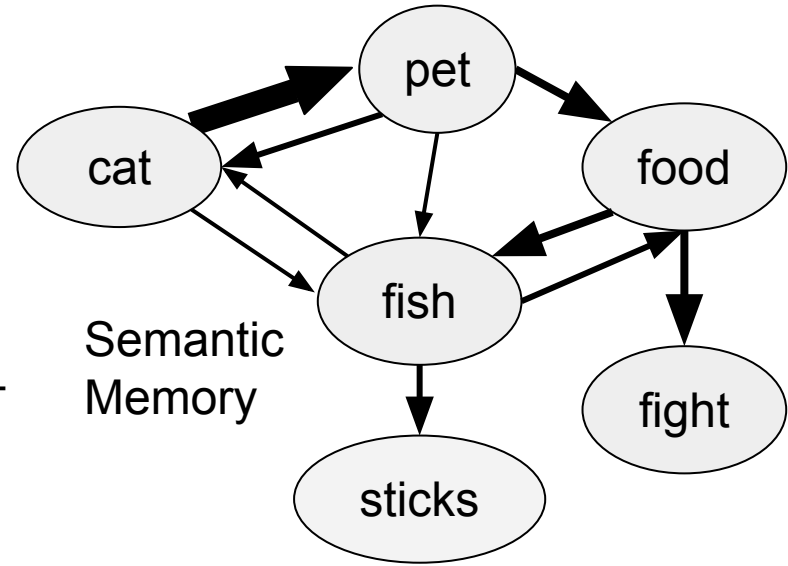
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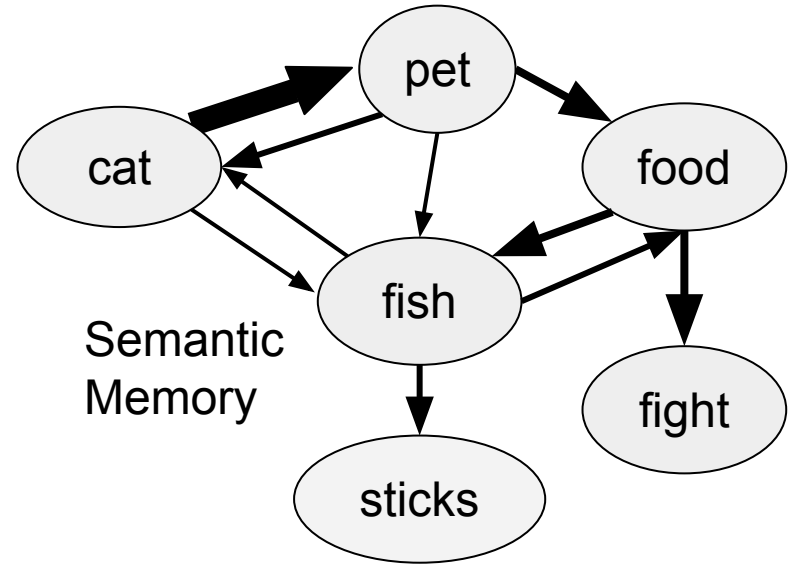
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Relies only on  
connections  
existing

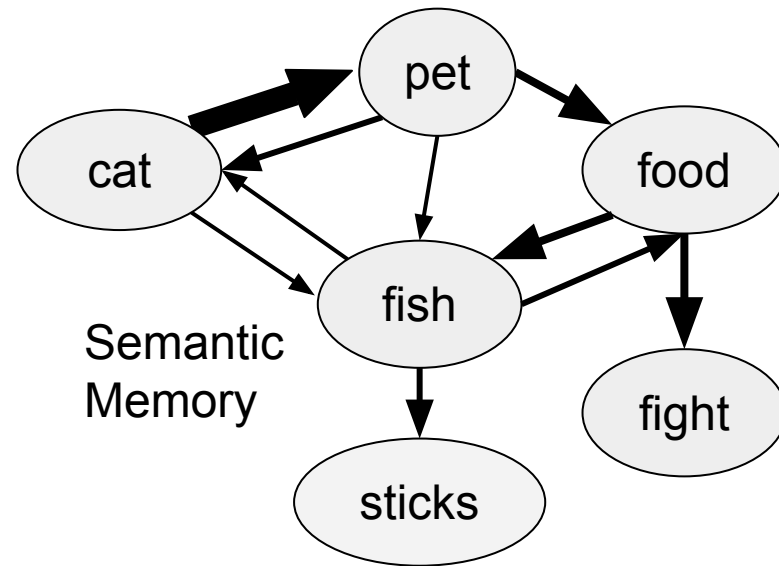


# Free Recall Model



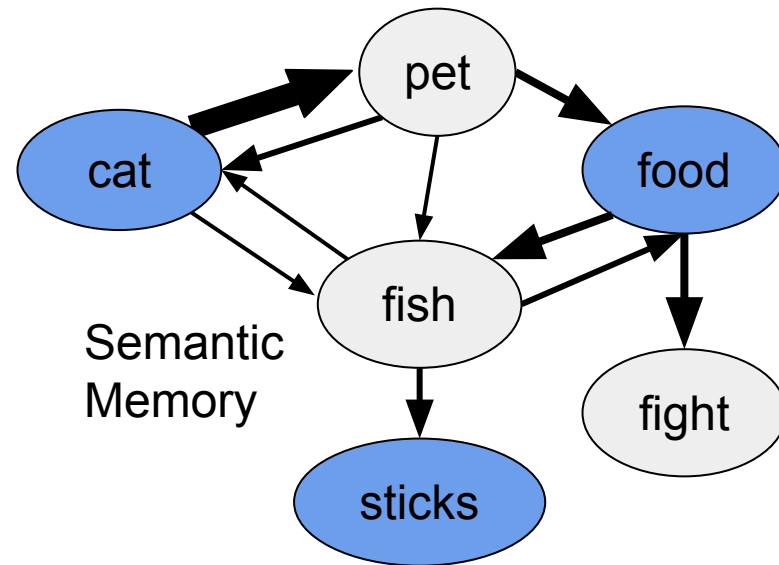
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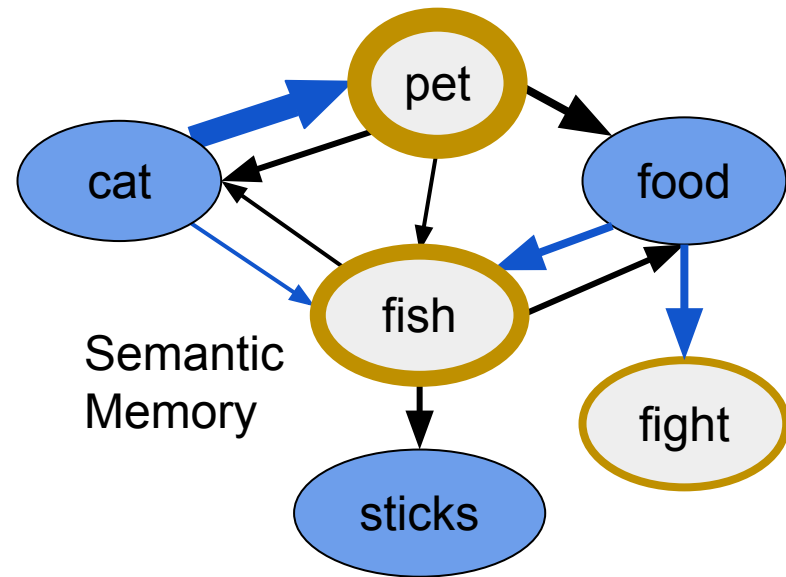
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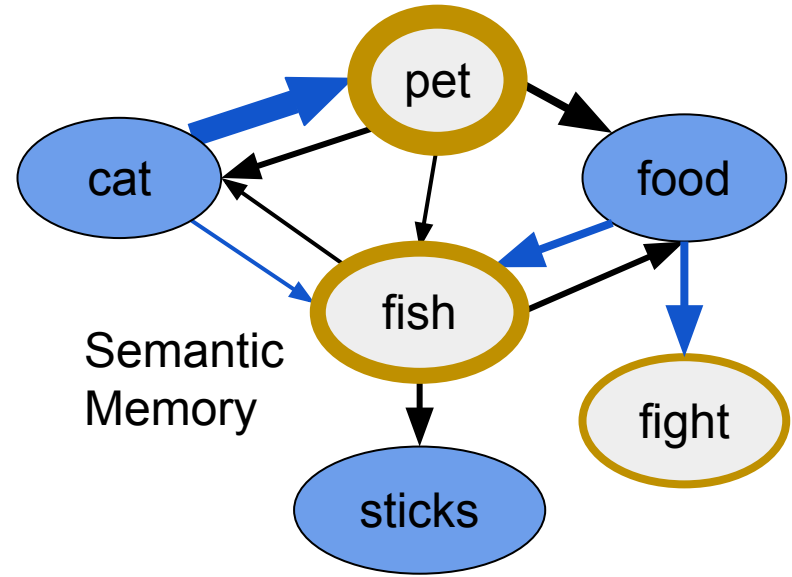
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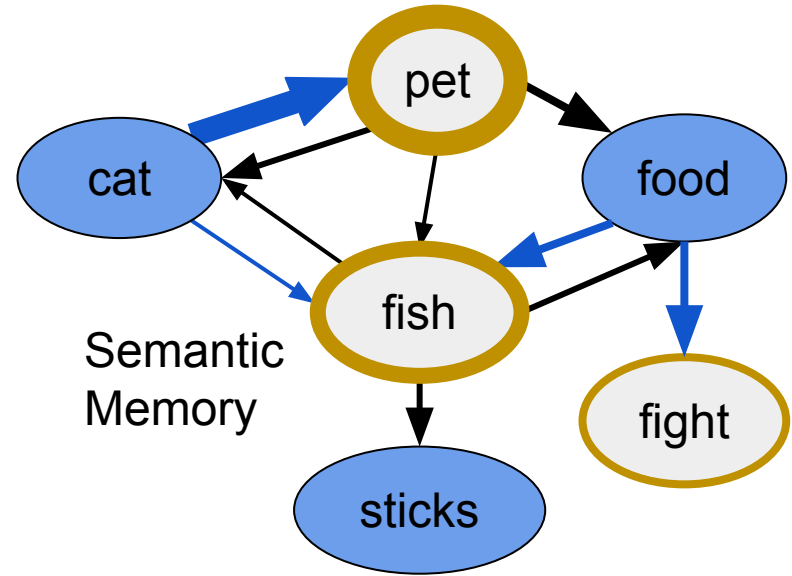
# Free Recall Model

1. Model is given RAT items “cat”, “food”, “sticks”
2. Model retrieves the words from semantic memory
3. Model asks for a word
  - a. Receives “Pet”



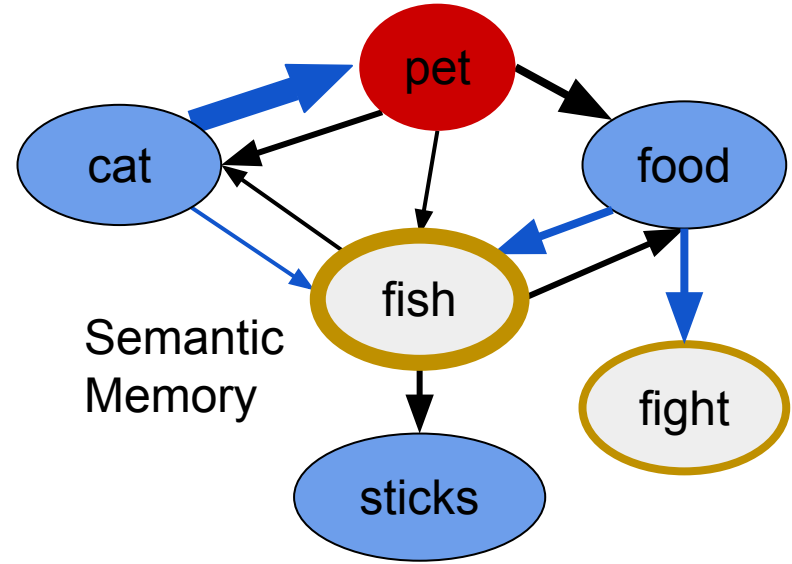
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1. Model is given RAT items “cat”, “food”, “sticks”
2. Model retrieves the words from semantic memory
3. Model asks for a word
  - a. Receives “Pet”
4. Evaluates “Pet” as relating to 2 words



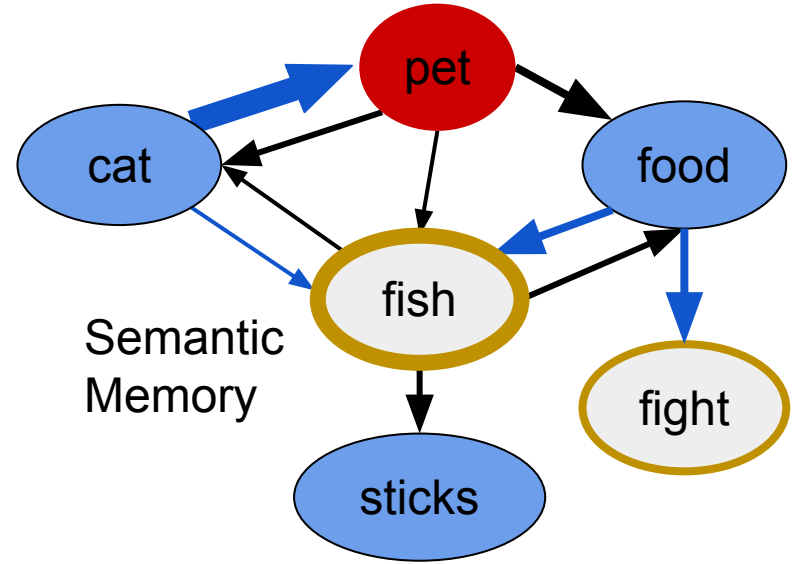
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4. Evaluates “Pet” as relating to 2 words
5. Model asks for a word and inhibits “pet”
  - a. Receives “fish”



# Free Recall Model

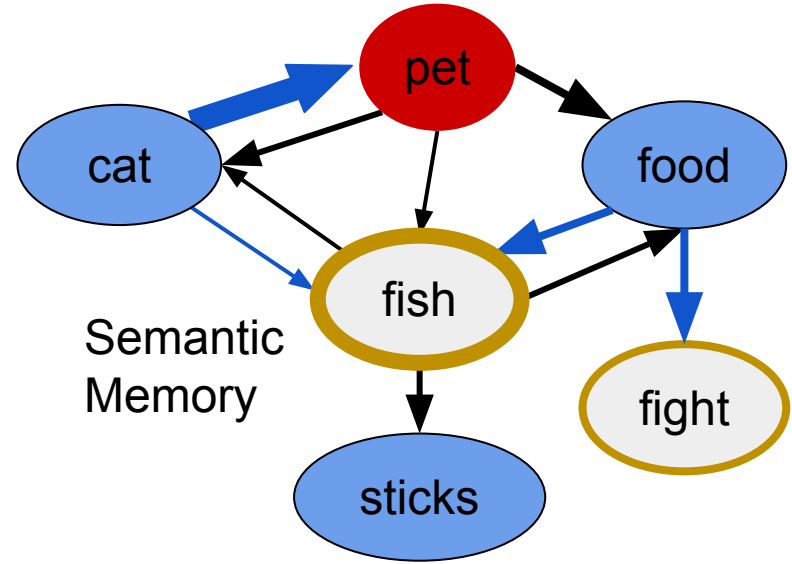
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5. Model asks for a word and inhibits “pet”
  - a. Receives “fish”
6. Evaluates “fish” as relating to 3 words





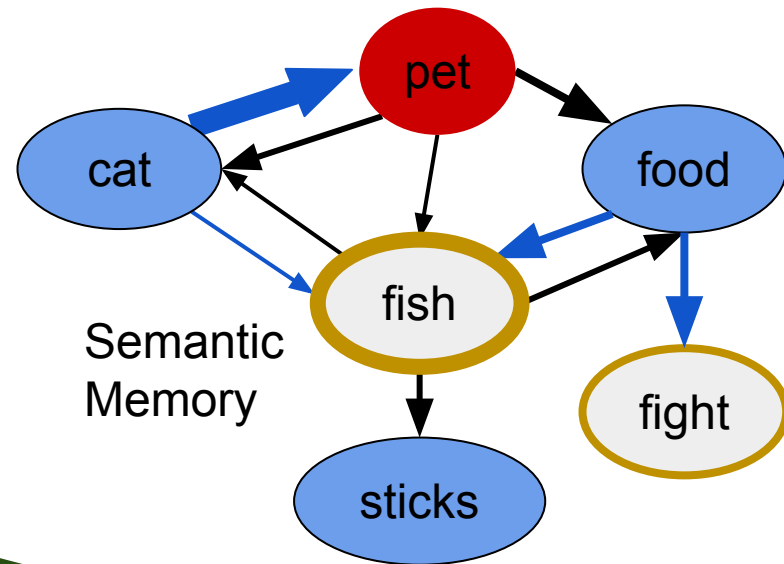
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6. Evaluates “fish” as relating to 3 words
7. Returns “fish”



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6. Evaluates “fish” as relating to 3 words
7. Returns “fish”

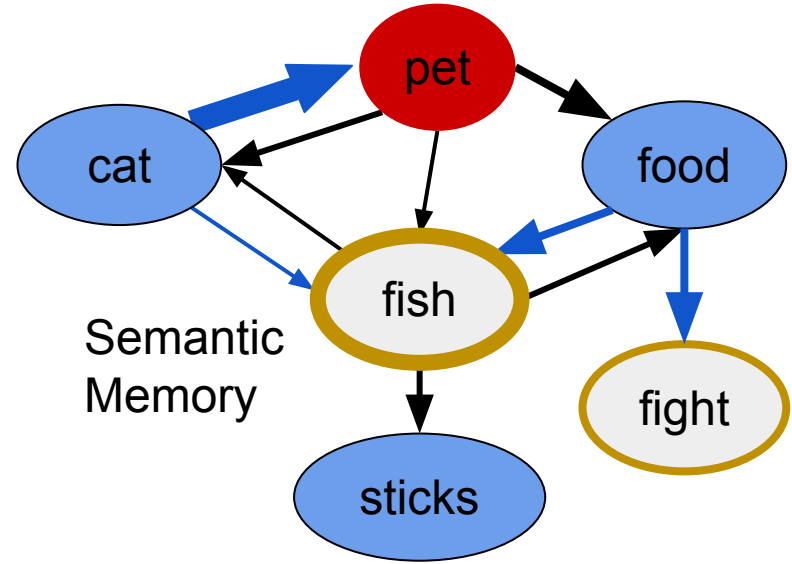


Attempt 1

Attempt 2

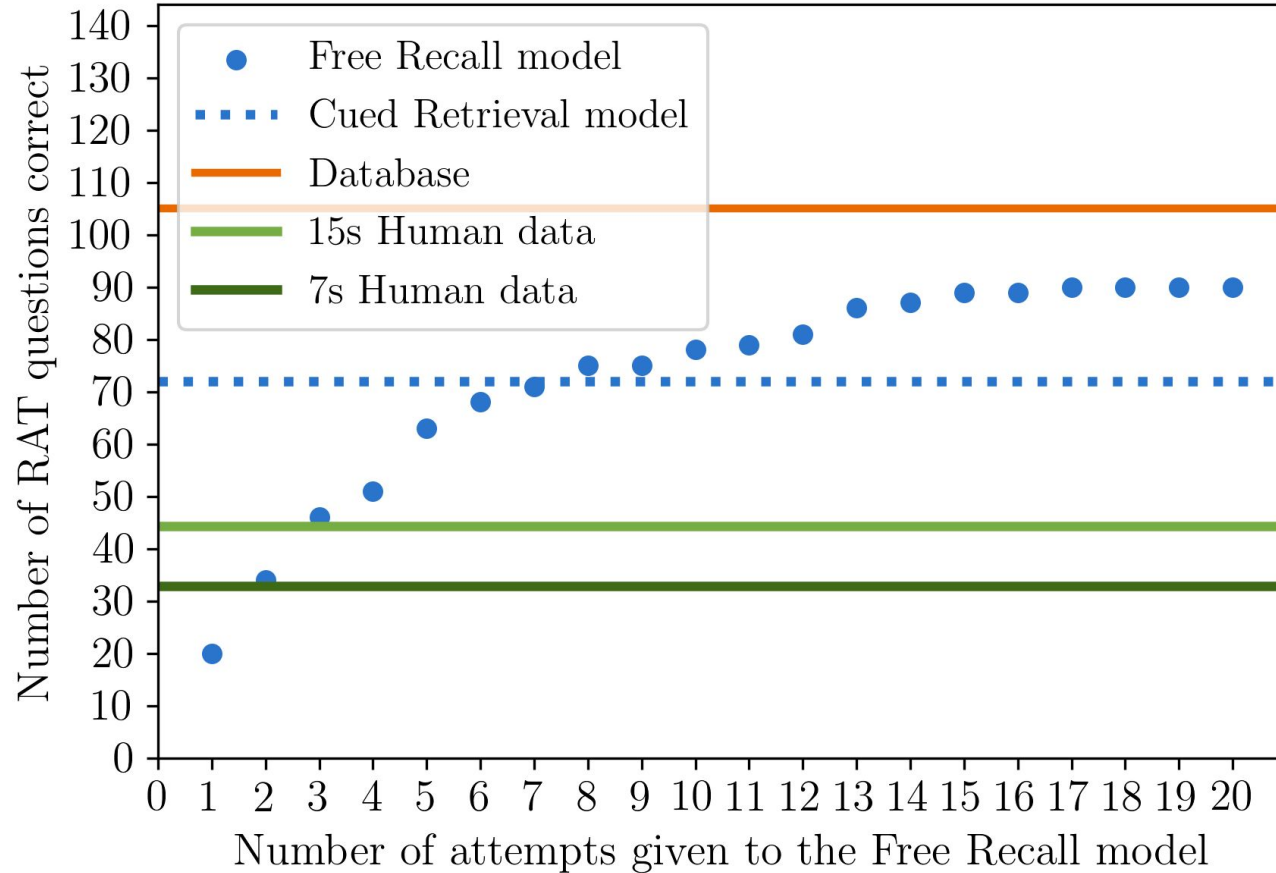
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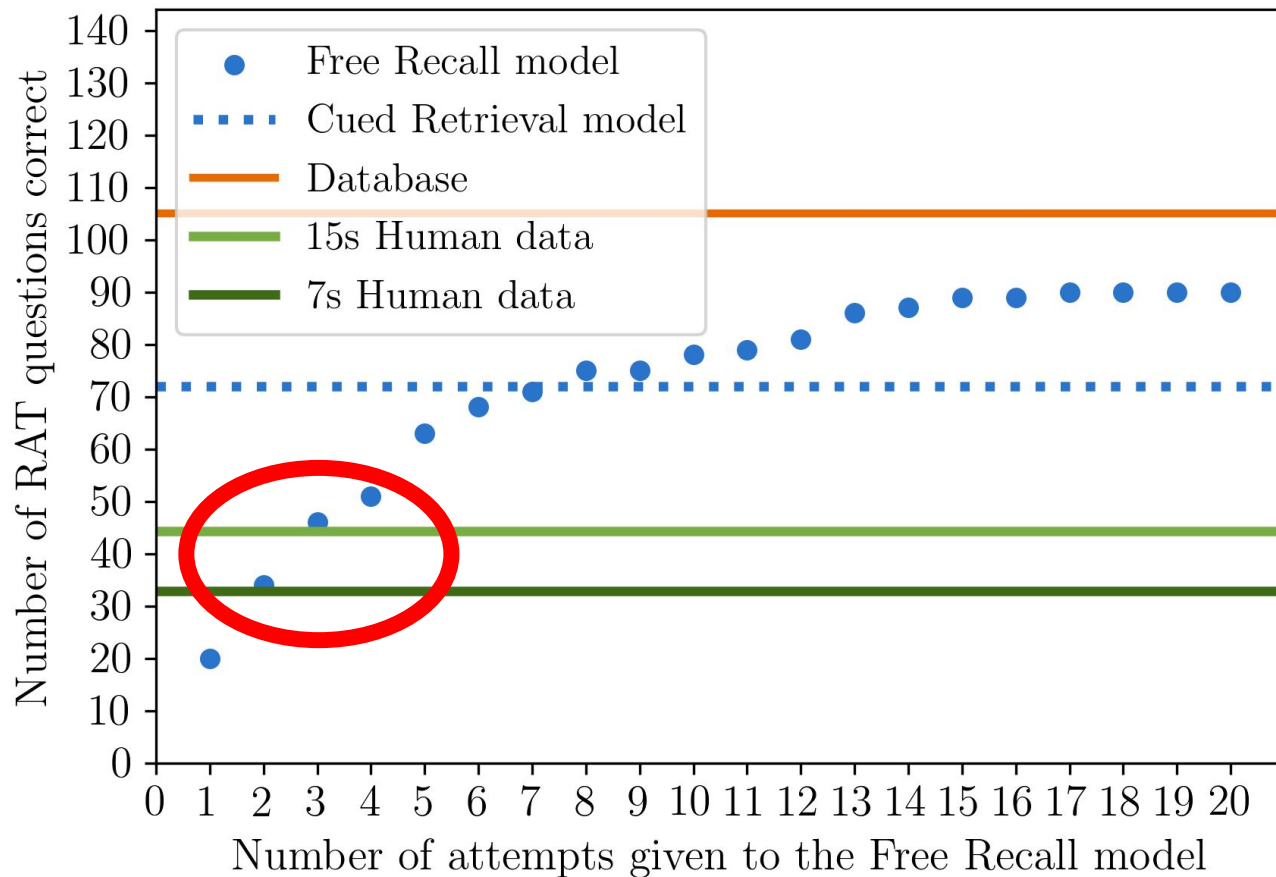


Relies on association strength and fan

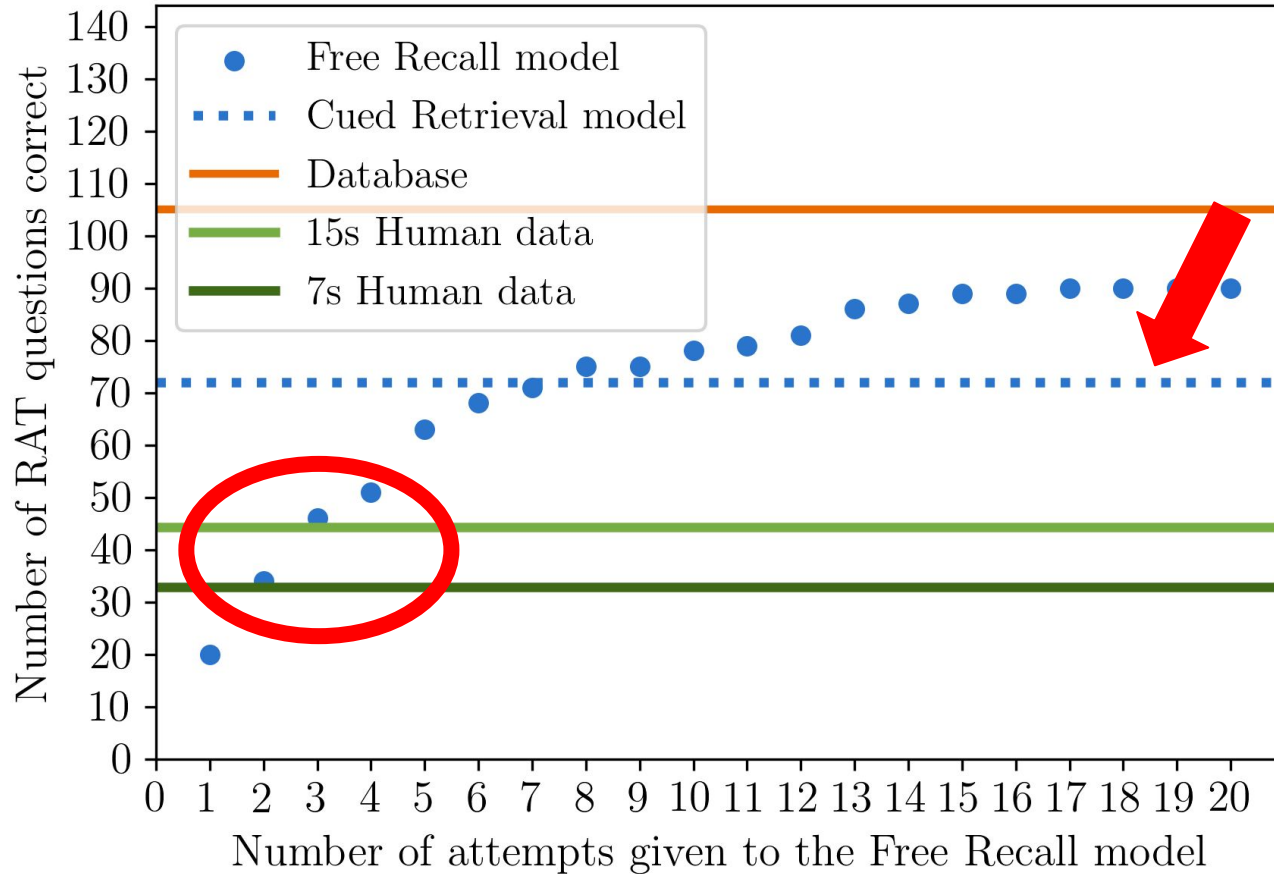
## RAT questions correct with the HBC database



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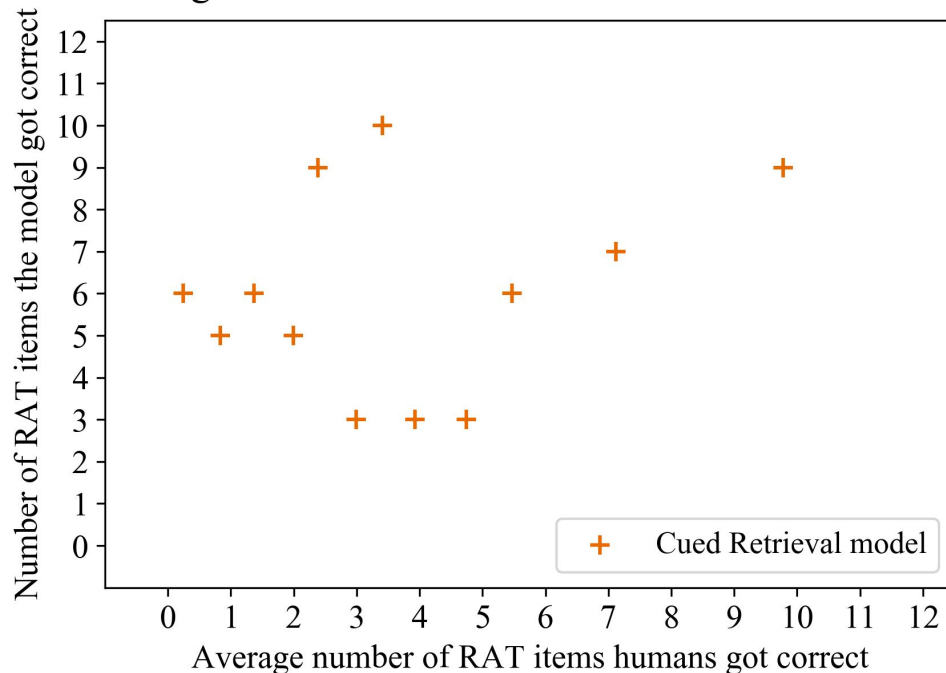
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- 144 questions into 12 bins based on human % correct

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Comparing models with binned human difficulty data.  
Using the HBC database and 15 second human data

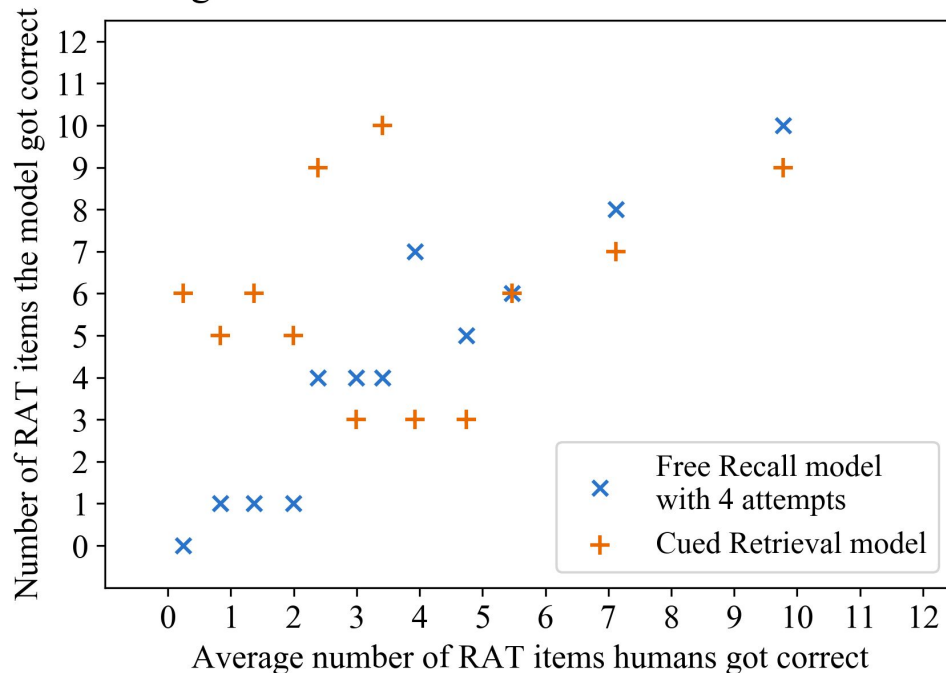




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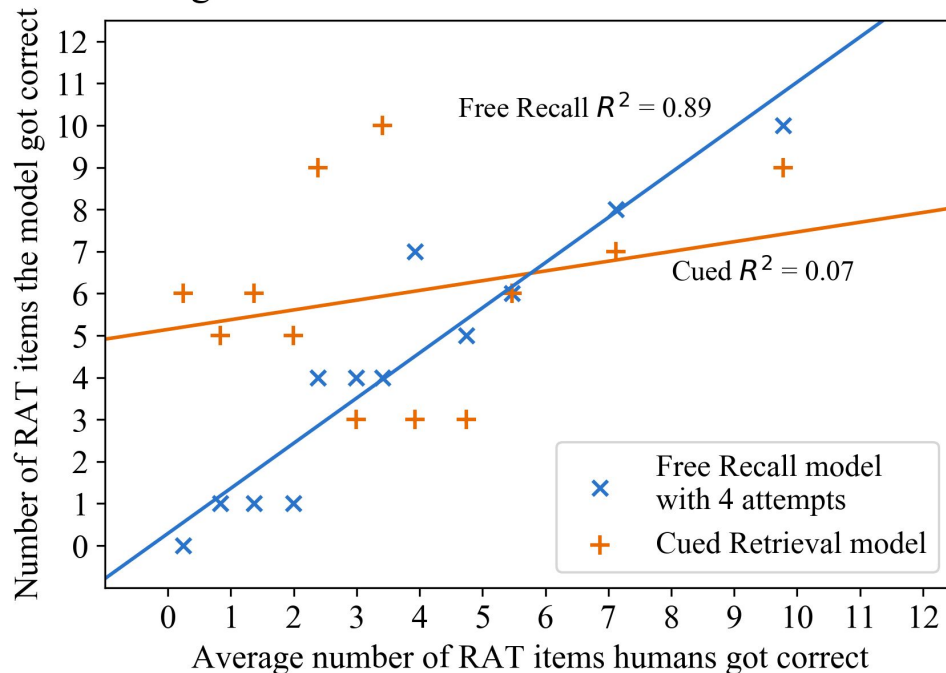
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# Which model provides a better explanation of human difficulty on the RAT?

## Cued Retrieval Model

Relies on queries with  
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$$R^2 = 0.07$$

## Free Recall Model

Relies on spreading  
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$$R^2 = 0.89$$

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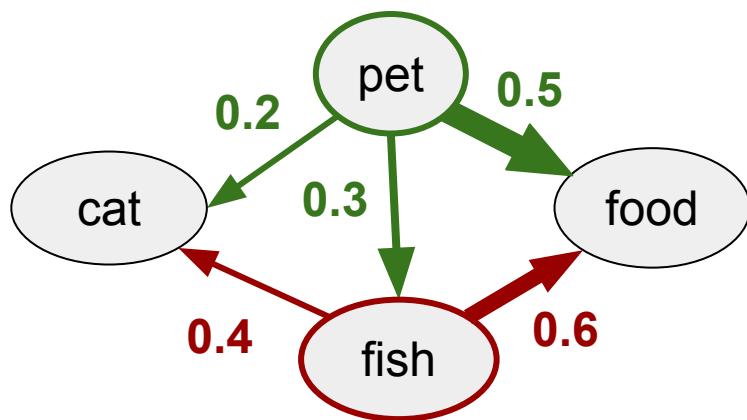
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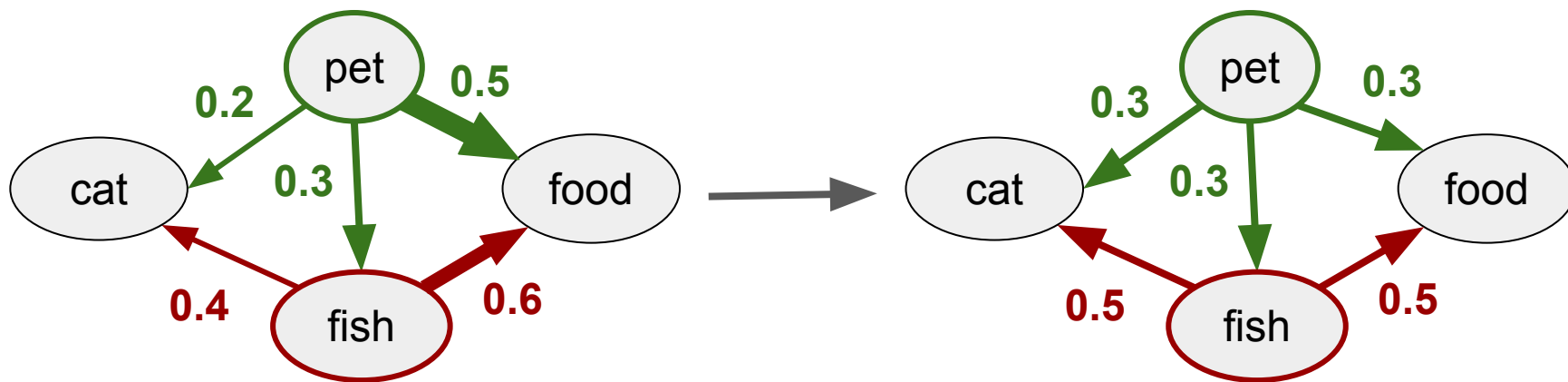
# Modifications

- Removing the effect from association strength
- Removing the effect from fan
- Reversing direction of spreading
- Initializing base-level activation with word frequency data



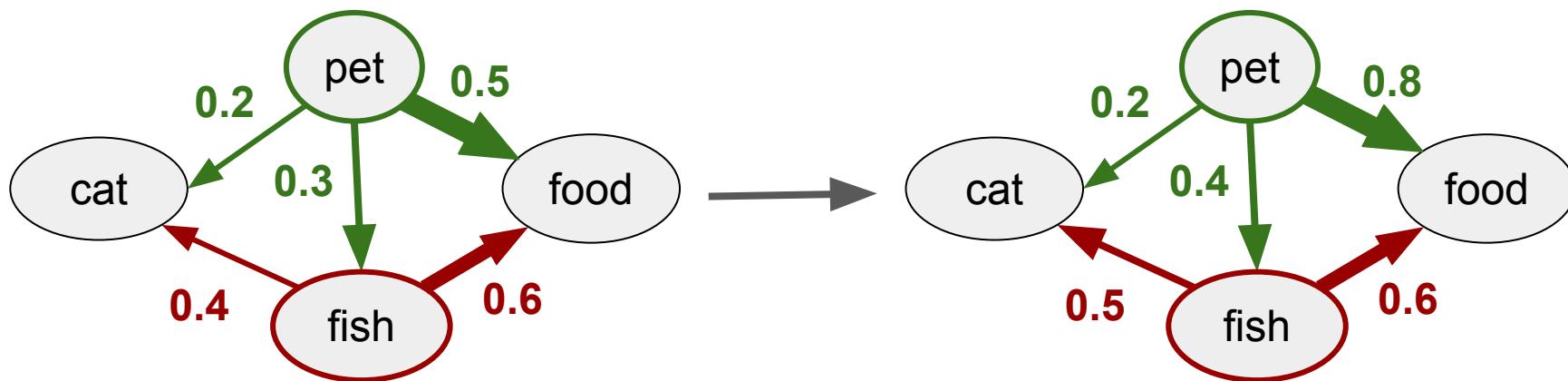
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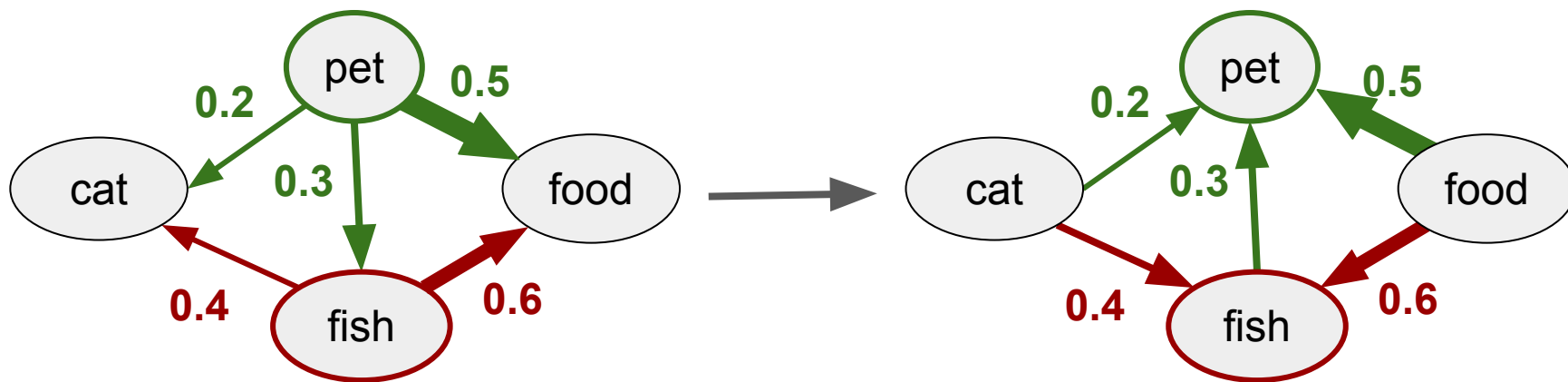
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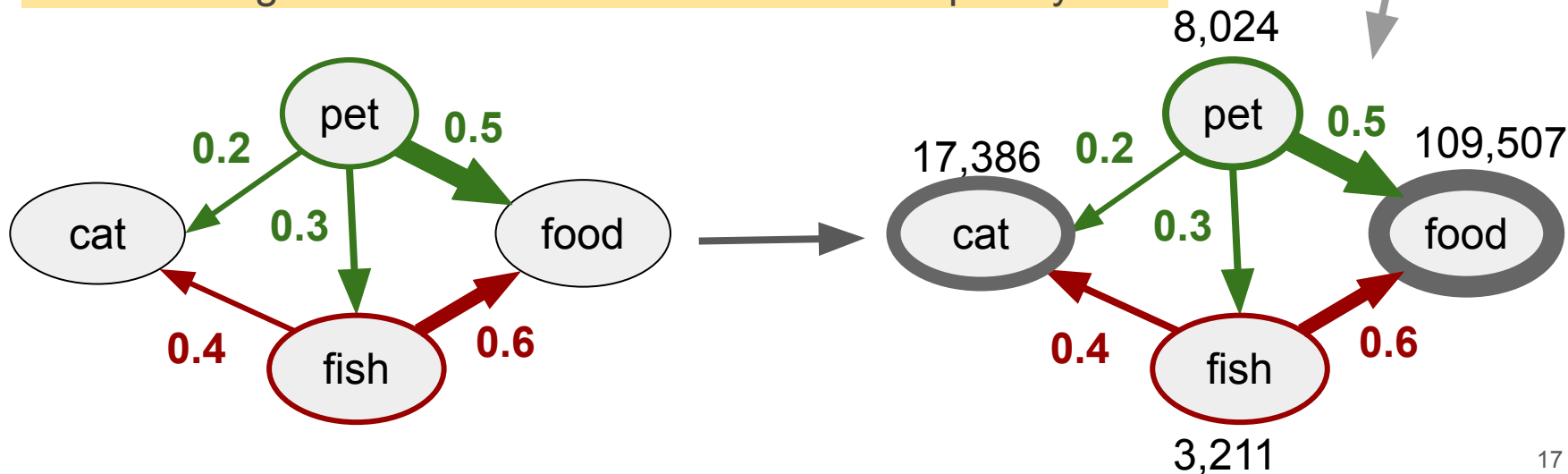




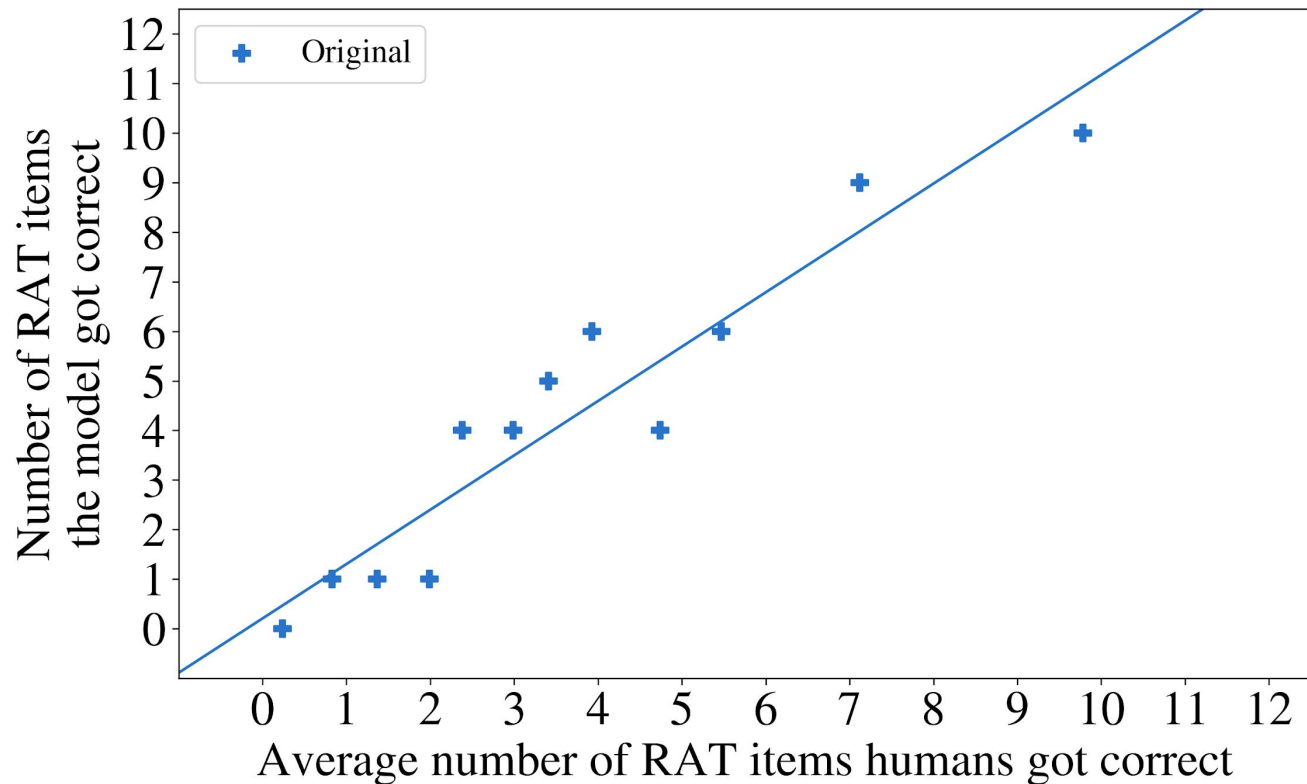
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Word	Frequency
pet	8,024
food	109,507
cat	17,386
fish	3,211



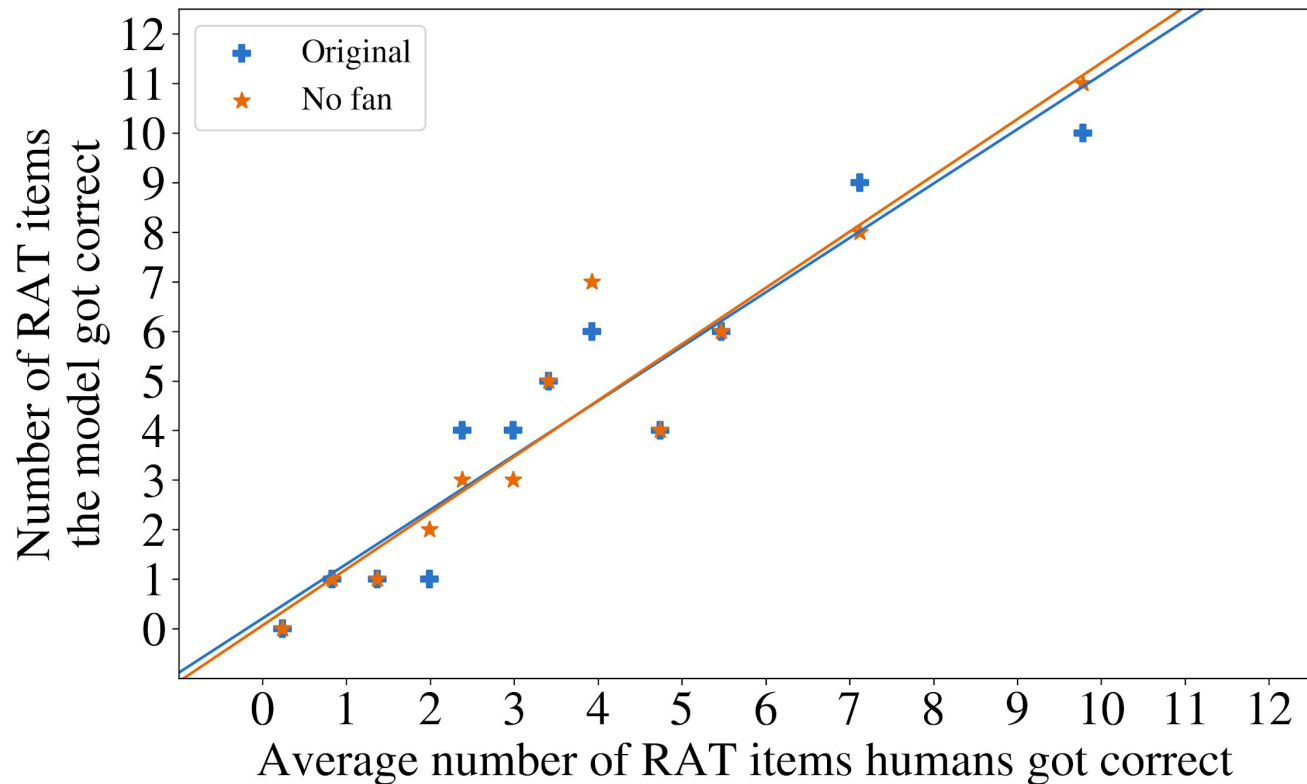
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**R<sup>2</sup> Values**

Original: 0.92

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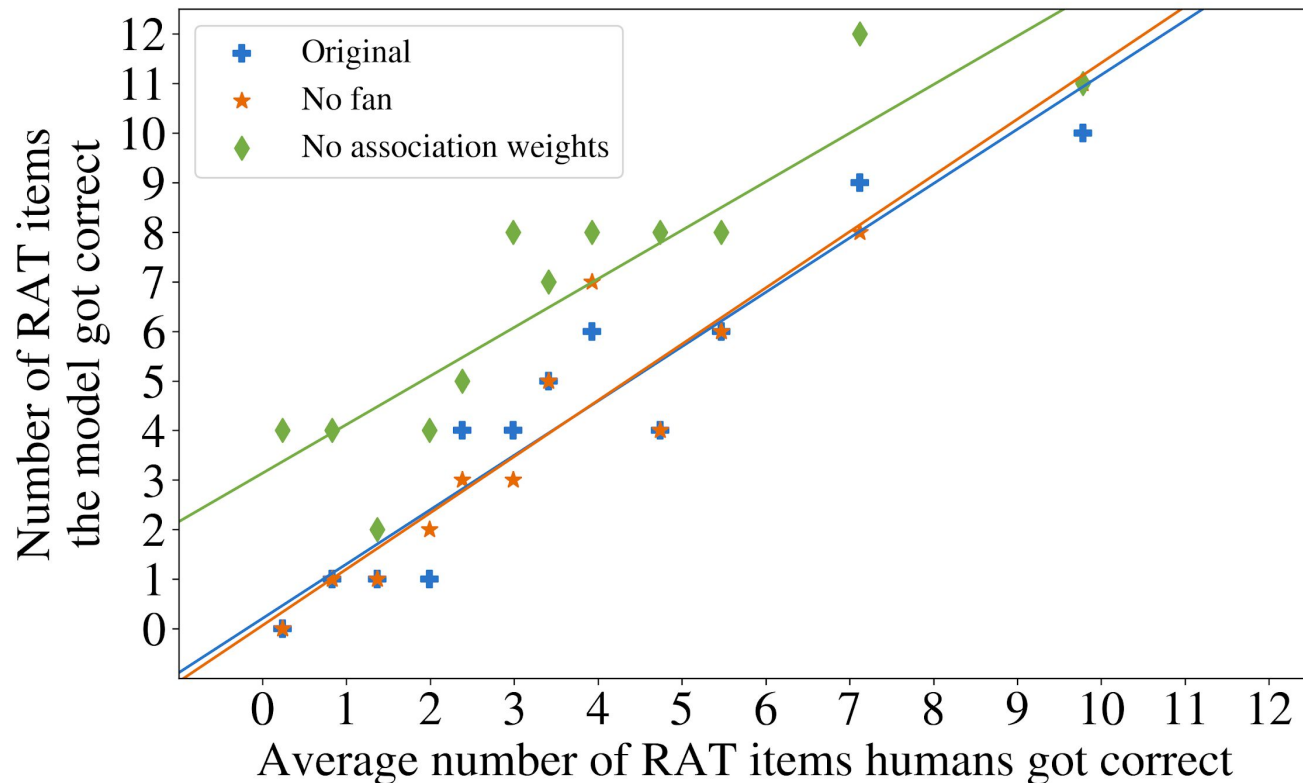


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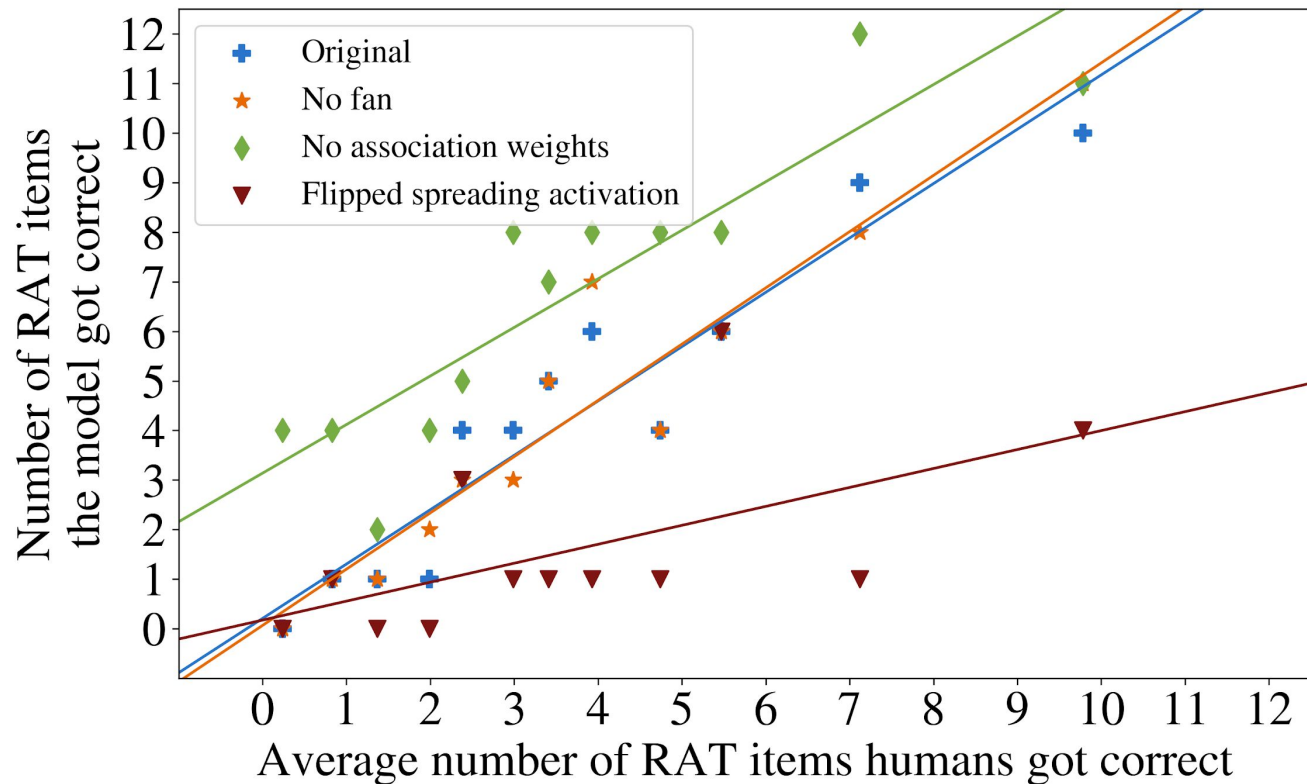
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Original: 0.92

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No Weights: 0.83

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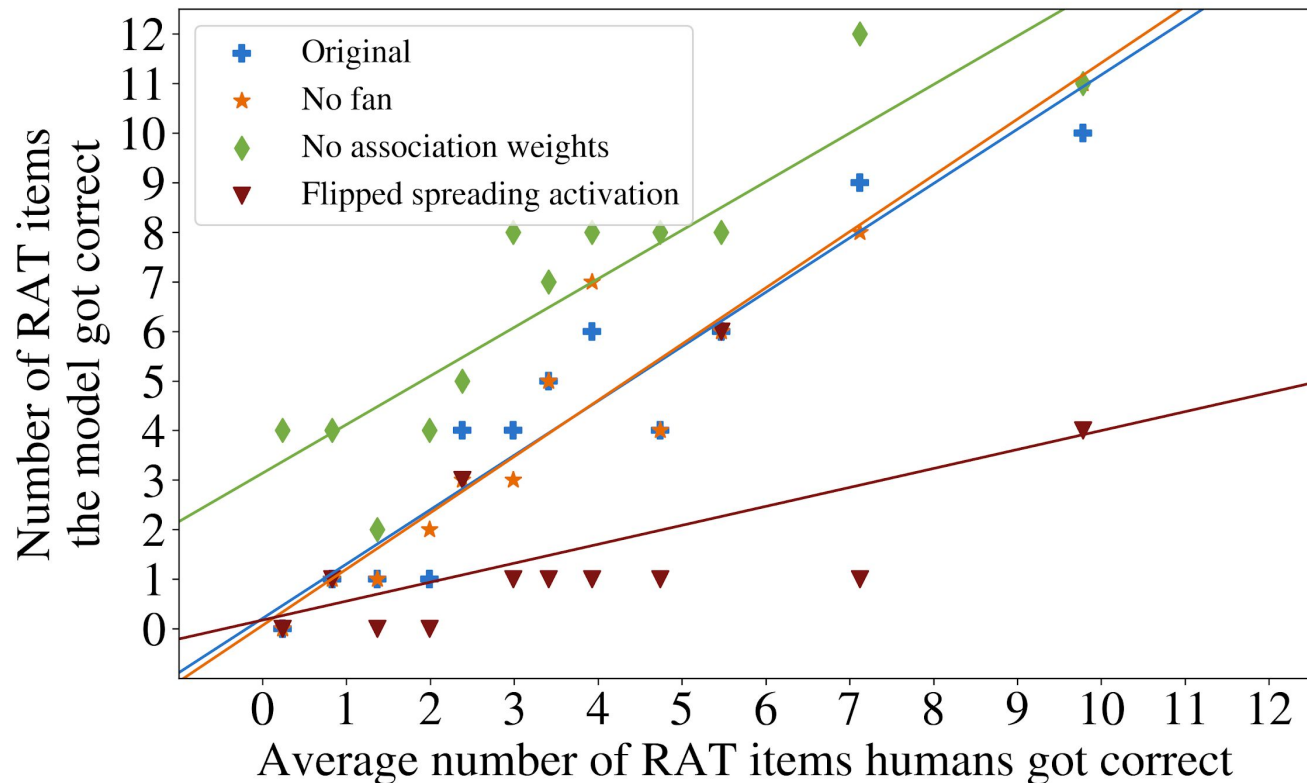
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# Comparing models with binned human difficulty data. Using the HBC database and 15 second human data



## R<sup>2</sup> Values

Original: 0.92

No Fan: 0.89

No Weights: 0.68

Flipped Spread: 0.19

Word Frequency  
Initialization: 0.92

# Questions or Comments?

## Gold Nugget

Consistent results with  
spreading activation

## Coal

Removing fan doesn't  
impact results