

No scope for planning – language pre-planning as mixture process

Jens Roeser

Mark Torrance Mark Andrews Thom Baguley

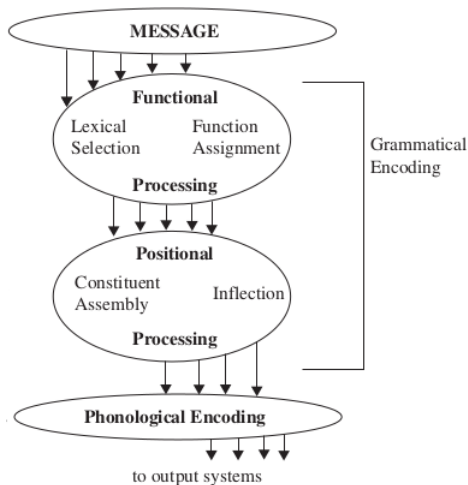
Nottingham Trent University, UK
jens.roeser@ntu.ac.uk

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Turning ideas into language (Bock & Levelt, 1994)

- ▶ Message units are unordered.
- ▶ Output requires linearisation of words.
- ▶ Linearisation is subject to pragmatic, lexical and / or syntactic factors.

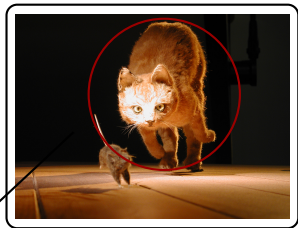


To what extent does syntax affect the linearisation of the output?

Syntax in language production (Bock & Ferreira, 2014)

1. Syntax is an emergent property of lexically-driven planning.
2. Syntactic relations guide lexical retrieval.
 - a. **Deterministic:** syntax determines size of planning unit.
 - b. **Non-deterministic:** multiple candidate structures (Kempen & Hoenkamp, 1987).
3. Either route (relational and non-relational) is available (at the message level; see Konopka & Meyer, 2014).

Consider the following evidence for possibility (2a).

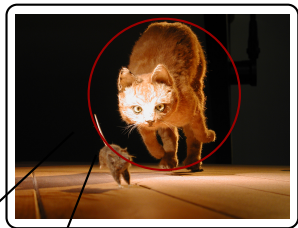


Message



CAT

NP



Message



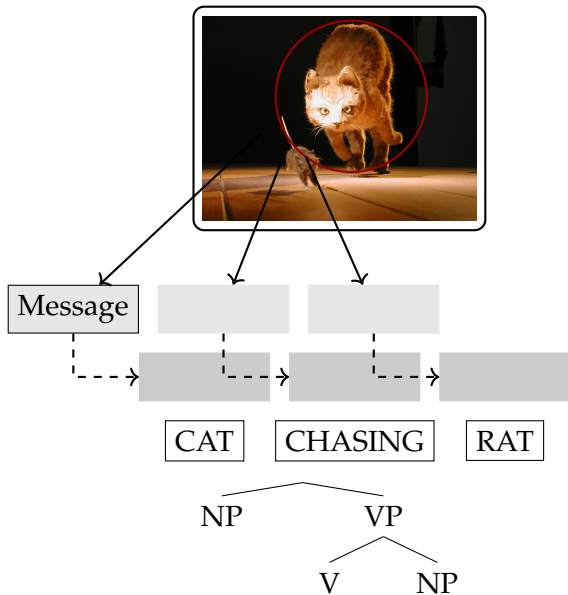
CAT

CHASING

NP

VP

V



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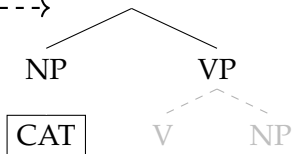
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Message

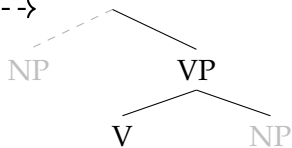


Message





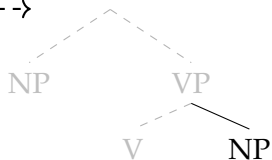
Message



CHASE



Message



RAT

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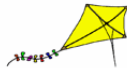
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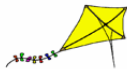
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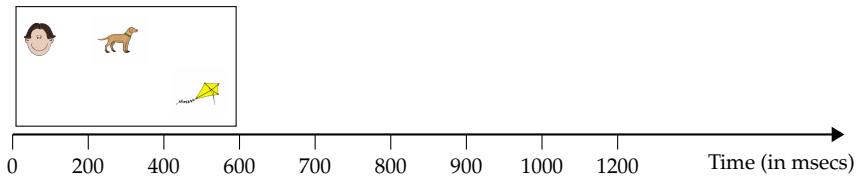
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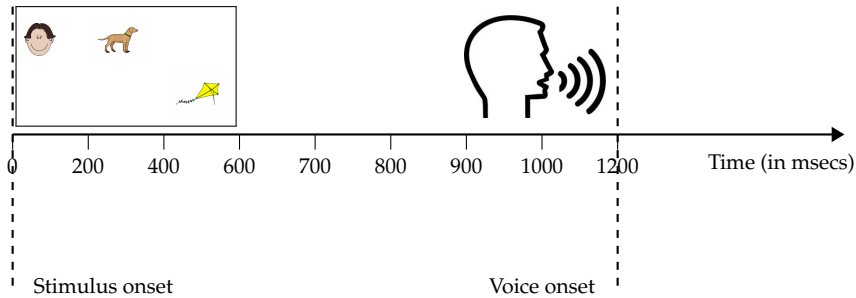
+

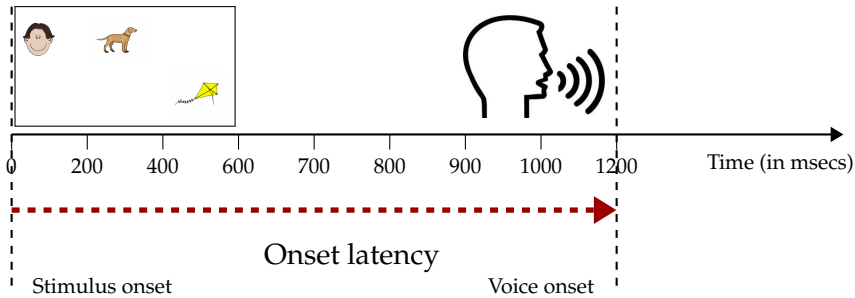


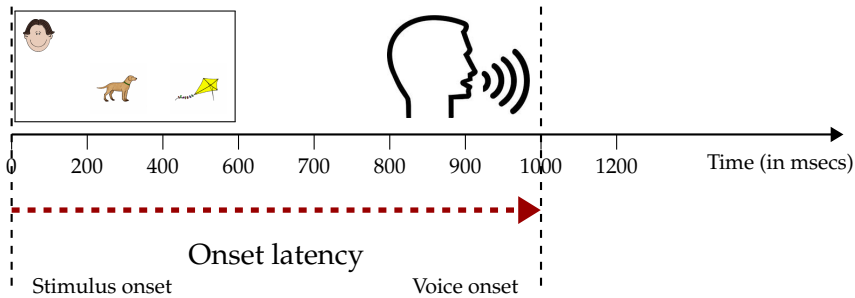


*The boy and the dog moved above
the kite.*









Preplanning scope involves syntax

1. **The boy and the dog** moved above the kite.
 2. **The boy** moved above the dog and the kite.
-
- ▶ Frequently reproduced effect (e.g. Martin et al., [2014](#); Smith & Wheeldon, [1999](#); Wagner et al., [2010](#)).
 - ▶ “Phrase as default planning scope” (Martin et al., [2010](#))
 - ▶ NP syntax is planned before production onset.
 - ▶ Lexical scope is smaller (Griffin, [2001](#)) and flexible (Wheeldon et al., [2013](#)).

Implication of the standard statistical treatment

- ▶ Statistical models used (LMM, ANOVA) map onto a deterministic syntax-driven model.
- ▶ Systematic difference between simple and conjoined NPs.
- ▶ Under these statistical models, the following alternative hypothesis couldn't be tested.

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Alternative hypothesis

- ▶ **Preplanning beyond the first noun is more likely but not obligated by the phrase syntax** because, for example, ...
 1. Fluency pressure requires preplanning of B in *The A and the B moved* ... if there is not enough time to plan B in parallel to articulation (Allum & Wheeldon, [2007](#); Griffin, [2003](#)).
 2. Activation of phrase syntax or use of the syntactic route is non-deterministic.

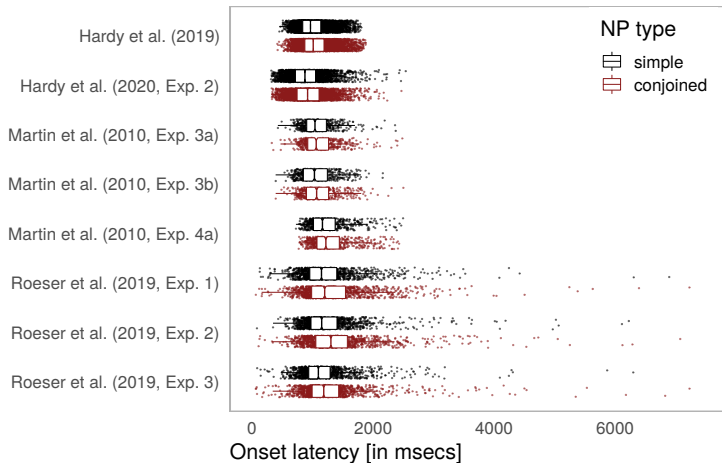
Research focus

- ▶ Direct comparison of two hypothesis.
 - i. Phrase scope obligated by the production system, leading to a systematic slowdown for conjoined NPs.
 - ii. Preplanning beyond the first noun is more likely in conjoined NPs but not obligated by the production system.

Pooled re-analysis

- ▶ Stimulus-to-onset latencies
 - a. **Conjoined NPs:** *The boy and the dog moved above the kite.*
 - b. **Simple NPs:** *The boy moved above the dog and the kite.*
- ▶ Hardy et al. (2019): 90 ppts; 36 items
- ▶ Hardy et al. (2020): 105 ppts; 80 items
- ▶ Martin et al. (2010): 3×12 ppts; 2×48 and 1×64 items
- ▶ Roeser et al. (2019): 3×32 ppts; 96 items

Data overview



Model overview

1. Null LMM
 2. **LMM (NP effect)**
 3. LMM (unequal variance)
 4. Null mixture model
 5. **Mixture model**
 - ▶ Stan code based on Sorensen et al. (2016) and Vasishth, Chopin et al. (2017); also Vasishth, Jäger et al. (2017).
- ▶ *LogNormal* distribution with mean μ and error variance σ_e^2
 - ▶ Random intercepts
 - ▶ participants:
 $u_i \sim \text{Normal}(0, \sigma_u^2)$
 - ▶ items:
 $w_j \sim \text{Normal}(0, \sigma_w^2)$
 - ▶ Weakly informative priors (McElreath, 2016)

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Null model (null hypothesis)

$$y_{ij} \sim \text{LogNormal}(\mu_{ij}, \sigma_e^2)$$

$$\mu_{ij} = \alpha + u_i + w_j$$

Meta null model (null hypothesis)

$$y_{ijk} \sim \text{LogNormal}(\mu_{ijk}, \sigma_{e_k}^2)$$

$$\mu_{ijk} = \alpha_k + u_i + w_j$$

$$\alpha_k = \alpha_\mu + \alpha_\tau \cdot \alpha_{\eta_k}$$

- ▶ For $k = 1, \dots, K$ where K is the number of studies.
- ▶ α_k is the latency coefficient for the k th study.
- ▶ α_μ is the pooled latency coefficient.
- ▶ Non-centred parametrisation for α_k (Gelman et al., [2014](#)).

Meta LMM (standard analysis)

$$\begin{aligned}y_{ijk} &\sim \text{LogNormal}(\mu_{ijk}, \sigma_{e_k}^2) \\ \mu_{ijk} &= \alpha_k + \beta_k \cdot x_{[0,1]} + u_i + w_j \\ \alpha_k &= \alpha_\mu + \alpha_\tau \cdot \alpha_{\eta_k} \\ \beta_k &= \beta_\mu + \beta_\tau \cdot \beta_{\eta_k}\end{aligned}$$

- ▶ $x = 0$ for simple NPs; $x = 1$ for conjoined NPs.
- ▶ β_k is the latency change for conjoined NPs for the k th study.
- ▶ β_μ is the pooled latency change for conjoined NPs.

Mixture model (alternative hypothesis)

$$y_{ij} \sim \theta_{NP} \cdot \text{LogNormal}(\mu_{ij} + \delta, \sigma_{e'}^2) + \\ (1 - \theta_{NP}) \cdot \text{LogNormal}(\mu_{ij}, \sigma_e^2)$$

$$\mu_{ij} = \alpha + u_i + w_j$$

constraint: $\delta > 0$

$$\sigma_{e'}^2 > \sigma_e^2$$

- ▶ Probability of long latencies θ by NP type.
- ▶ μ and σ^2 constant across NP type.

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$$y_{ijk} \sim \theta_{NP_k} \cdot \text{LogNormal}(\mu_{ijk} + \delta_k, \sigma_{e'_k}^2) + \\ (1 - \theta_{NP_k}) \cdot \text{LogNormal}(\mu_{ijk}, \sigma_{e_k}^2)$$

$$\mu_{ijk} = \alpha_k + u_i + w_j$$

$$\theta_{NP_k} = \text{Logit}^{-1}(\phi_{NP_k})$$

$$\phi_{NP_k} \sim \text{Normal}(\phi_{\mu_{NP}}, \phi_{\tau}^2)$$

$$\delta_k \sim \text{Normal}(\delta_{\mu}, \delta_{\tau}^2)$$

$$\text{constraint: } \delta_k > 0$$

- ▶ $\alpha_k, \sigma_{e'_k}^2, \sigma_{e_k}^2$ defined as before.
- ▶ Pooled coefficient for parameters: θ_{NP}, δ

Meta LMM (unequal variance)

$$y_{ijk} \sim \begin{cases} \text{LogNormal}(\mu_{ijk}, \sigma_{e_k}^2), & \text{if NP}_{ijk} = \text{simple} \\ \text{LogNormal}(\mu_{ijk} + \beta_k, \sigma_{e'_k}^2) & \text{else if NP}_{ijk} = \text{conjoined} \end{cases}$$

$$\mu_{ijk} = \alpha_k + u_i + w_j$$

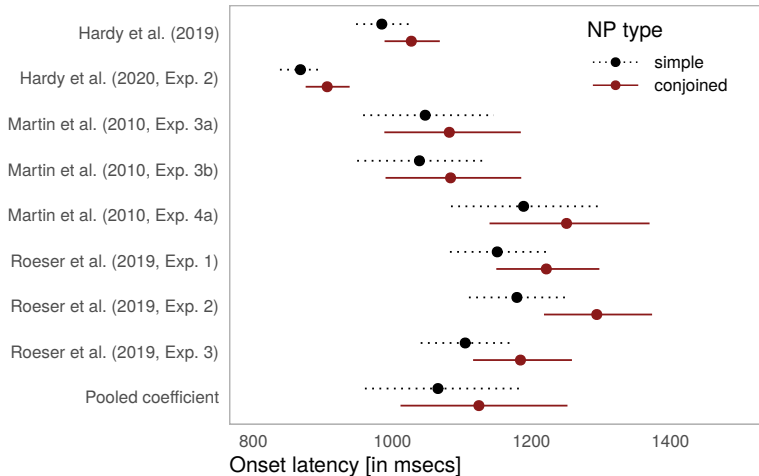
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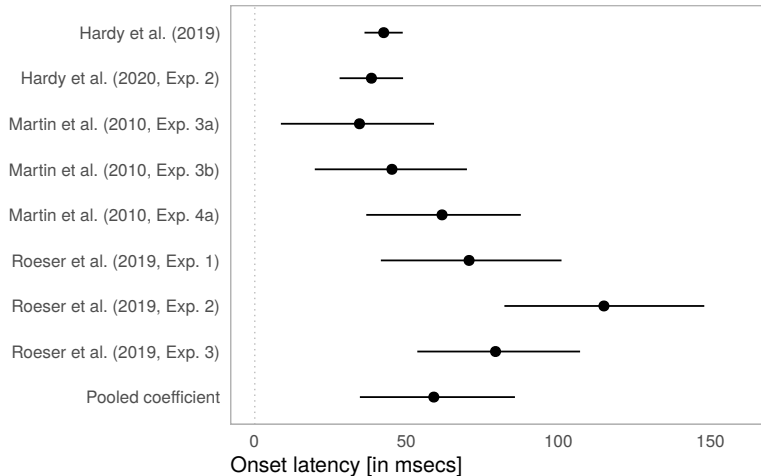
$$\text{constraint: } \sigma_{e_k}^2 > 0$$

$$\sigma_{e'_k}^2 > \sigma_{e_k}^2$$

NP effect (LMM)



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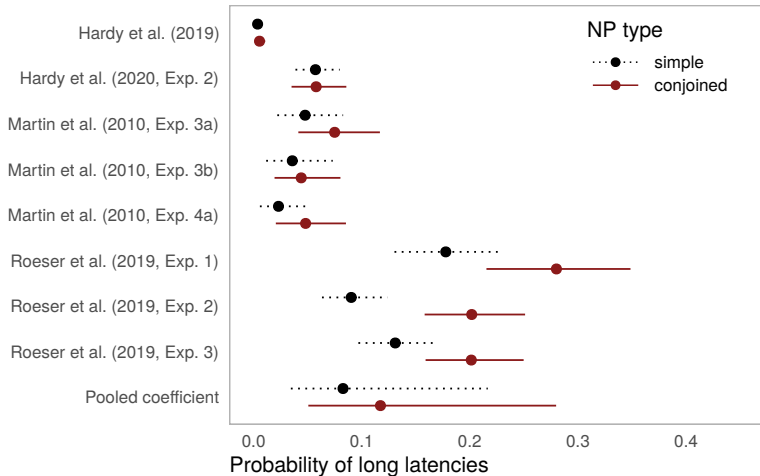
Model comparisons

Predictive performance estimated as the *expected log pointwise predictive density* (\widehat{elpd}) (Vehtari et al., 2015, 2017). Models are ordered by predictive performance (model with highest predictive performance in top row). Standard error in parentheses.

Models	$\Delta\widehat{elpd}$	\widehat{elpd}	Description
MoG-1	–	-201,486 (176)	Mixing proportions by NP
MoG-0	-15 (8)	-201,500 (176)	Null model
LMM-1	-1,006 (97)	-202,492 (214)	NP effect
LMM-0	-1,192 (92)	-202,678 (212)	Null model
LMM-2	-3,537 (214)	-205,022 (307)	Unequal variance

Note. LMM = Linear mixed effects model; MoG = Mixture of Gaussians

Probability of long latencies (MoG)



Summary

- ▶ The frequently observed slowdown for conjoined NPs is better explained by a larger, yet relatively small, probability of long latencies.
- ▶ Different pattern for Hardy et al. (2019, 2020) compared to Martin et al. (2010) and Roeser et al. (2019); possibly because of data trimming threshold.
- ▶ Most studies in our pool included other manipulations.

Follow-up experiments

Experiment 1:

- ▶ Reproduce analysis after ...
 - i. Reducing the manipulation to simple and conjoined NPs.
 - ii. Controlling image names

Experiment 2:

- ▶ Assess the impact of the visual manipulation independently of utterance syntax.
- ▶ Elicit name lists instead of sentences (as in Martin et al., [2010](#))

Methods



Condition 1: A and B moved above C



Condition 2: A moved above B and C

► Experiment 1:

- 1a. Peter and the dog moved above the kite
- 1b. Peter moved above the dog and the kite
 - 78 ppts (after cleaning)

► Experiment 2:

- 2. Peter, the dog, the kite
 - 45 ppts (after cleaning)

- First noun: *Peter* or *Tania*

- Movement: up or down

- 48 items; 96 fillers; 6 practice trials

- Image names: high frequency and naming agreement.

Methods



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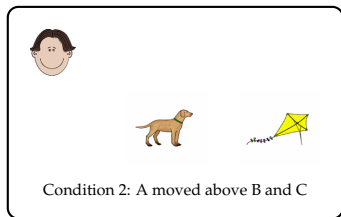
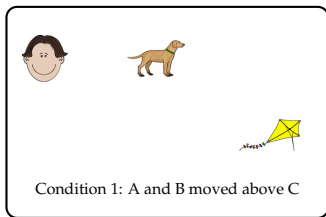
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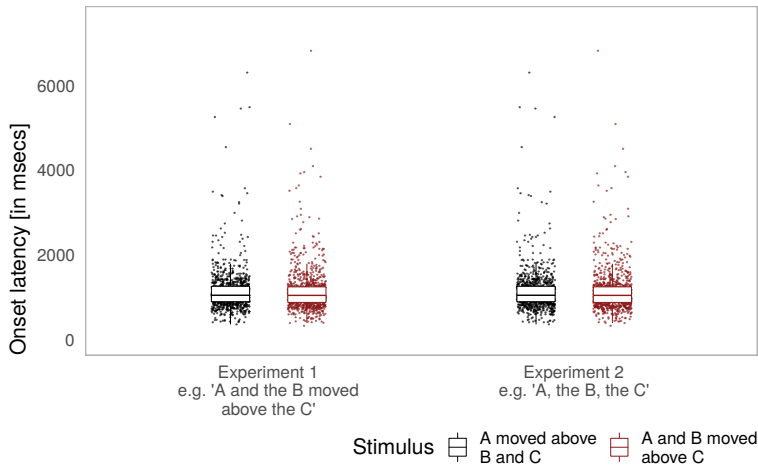
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- ▶ **Experiment 1:**
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Onset latencies



NP-type effect (LMM)

Experiment: 1
e.g. 'A and the B moved
above the C'

LMM-1 – LMM-0: $\Delta \widehat{elpd} = -6$ (4)



LMM-1: $\widehat{elpd} = -22,364$ (107)

Experiment: 2
e.g. 'A, the B, the C'

LMM-1 – LMM-0: $\Delta \widehat{elpd} = 1$ (1)

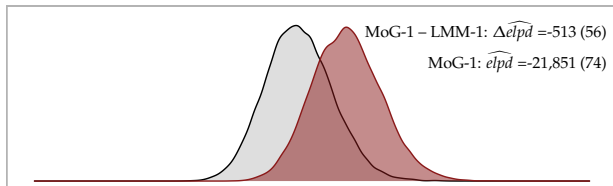
LMM-1: $\widehat{elpd} = -14,451$ (80)

800 1000 1200 1400
Onset latency [in msecs]

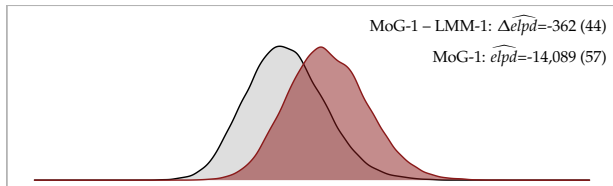
Stimulus  A moved above B and C  A and B moved above C

Probability of long latencies (MoG)



Experiment: 1
e.g. 'A and the B moved
above the C'



Experiment: 2
e.g. 'A, the B, the C'



0.0 0.1 0.2 0.3
Probability of long onset latencies

Stimulus  A moved above B and C  A and B moved above C

Summary

- ▶ Evidence against the phrase-as-planning-unit hypothesis: preplanning NP syntax is not obligated by the language production system.
- ▶ Instead, the slowdown for conjoined NPs (as in Martin et al., 2010; Smith & Wheeldon, 1999) is better explained by a larger tendency to exhibit long onset latencies.

Alternative explanations

- ▶ Preplanning scope is in-line with non-deterministic theories of language production.
- ▶ Together with Exp. 2, results suggest that the slowdown observed in a subset of trials originates during visual rather than grammatical encoding.
- ▶ Both a relational and non-relational route are available during high level encoding (Konopka & Meyer, [2014](#); Kuchinsky et al., [2011](#)).

Thank you for listening!

jens.roeser@ntu.ac.uk

nottinghamtrent.academia.edu/JensRoeser

R and *Stan* code: github.com/jensroes/NP-effect

...and **Randi Martin**, **Jason Crowther**, and **Sophie Hardy** for sharing their data.

...and **Dora Kramar** and **Andra Tanasescu** for help with the data collection.

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Meta LMM

$$\begin{aligned}y_{ijk} &\sim \text{LogNormal}(\mu_{ijk}, \sigma_{e_k}^2) \\ \mu_{ijk} &= \alpha_k + \beta_k \cdot x_{[0,1]} + u_i + w_j \\ \alpha_k &= \alpha_\mu + \alpha_\tau \cdot \alpha_{\eta_k} \\ \beta_k &= \beta_\mu + \beta_\tau \cdot \beta_{\eta_k} \\ \text{constraint: } \sigma_{e_k}^2 &> 0\end{aligned}$$

- ▶ $x = 0$ for simple NPs; $x = 1$ for conjoined NPs.
- ▶ β_k is the latency change for conjoined NPs for the k th study.
- ▶ β_μ is the pooled latency change for conjoined NPs.

Meta LMM (unequal variance)

$$y_{ijk} \sim \begin{cases} \text{LogNormal}(\mu_{ijk}, \sigma_{e_k}^2), & \text{if NP}_{ijk} = \text{simple} \\ \text{LogNormal}(\mu_{ijk} + \beta_k, \sigma_{e'_k}^2) & \text{else if NP}_{ijk} = \text{conjoined} \end{cases}$$

$$\mu_{ijk} = \alpha_k + u_i + w_j$$

$$\alpha_k = \alpha_\mu + \alpha_\tau \cdot \alpha_{\eta_k}$$

$$\beta_k = \beta_\mu + \beta_\tau \cdot \beta_{\eta_k}$$

$$\text{constraint: } \sigma_{e_k}^2 > 0$$

$$\sigma_{e'_k}^2 > \sigma_{e_k}^2$$

Meta mixture model (alternative hypothesis)

$$y_{ijk} \sim \theta_{NP_k} \cdot \text{LogNormal}(\mu_{ijk} + \delta_k, \sigma_{e'_k}^2) + \\ (1 - \theta_{NP_k}) \cdot \text{LogNormal}(\mu_{ijk}, \sigma_{e_k}^2)$$

$$\mu_{ijk} = \alpha_k + u_i + w_j$$

$$\alpha_k = \alpha_\mu + \alpha_\tau \cdot \alpha_{\eta_k}$$

$$\theta_{NP_k} = \text{Logit}^{-1}(\phi_{NP_k})$$

$$\theta_{NP} = \text{Logit}^{-1}(\phi_{\mu_{NP}})$$

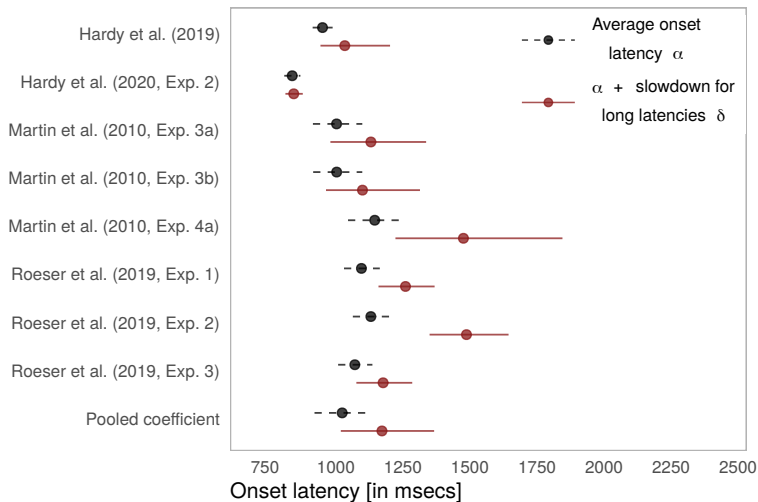
$$\phi_{NP_k} \sim \text{Normal}(\phi_{\mu_{NP}}, \phi_\tau^2)$$

$$\delta_k \sim \text{Normal}(\delta_\mu, \delta_\tau^2) \text{constraint: } \delta_k, \sigma_{e_k}^2, \phi_\tau, \delta_\tau > 0$$

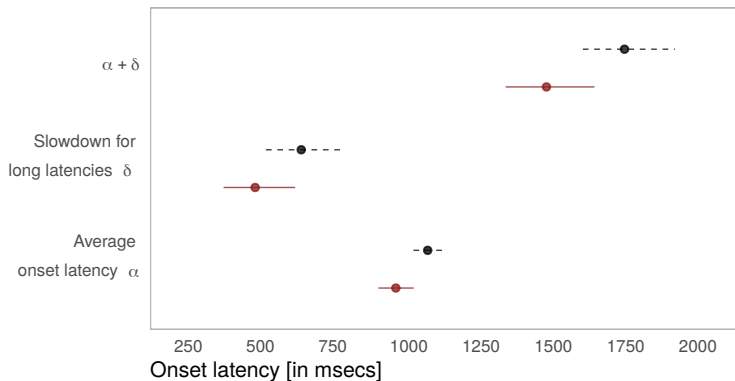
$$\sigma_{e'_k}^2 > \sigma_{e_k}^2$$

- Pooled coefficient for parameters: θ_{NP}, δ

Onset-latency coefficients (meta mixture components)



Onset-latency coefficients (mixture components)



--●-- Exp. 1: e.g. 'A and the B moved above the C'

—●— Exp. 2: e.g. 'A, the B, the C'

Model comparisons

Predictive performance estimated as the *expected log pointwise predictive density* (\widehat{elpd}). Models are ordered by predictive performance (model with highest predictive performance in top row). Standard error in parentheses.

	Model	$\Delta\widehat{elpd}$	\widehat{elpd}
Experiment 1	MoG-0	–	-21,851 (74)
	MoG-1	0 (2)	-21,851 (74)
	LMM-1	-513 (56)	-22,364 (107)
	LMM-2	-515 (57)	-22,366 (107)
	LMM-0	-519 (56)	-22,369 (107)
Experiment 2	MoG-0	–	-14,088 (57)
	MoG-1	-1 (1)	-14,089 (57)
	LMM-0	-362 (44)	-14,450 (80)
	LMM-1	-363 (44)	-14,451 (80)
	LMM-2	-364 (44)	-14,452 (81)

Note. LMM = Linear mixed effects model; MoG = Mixture of Gaussians