



南方科技大学
SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Machine Learning and NeuroEngineering

机器学习与神经工程

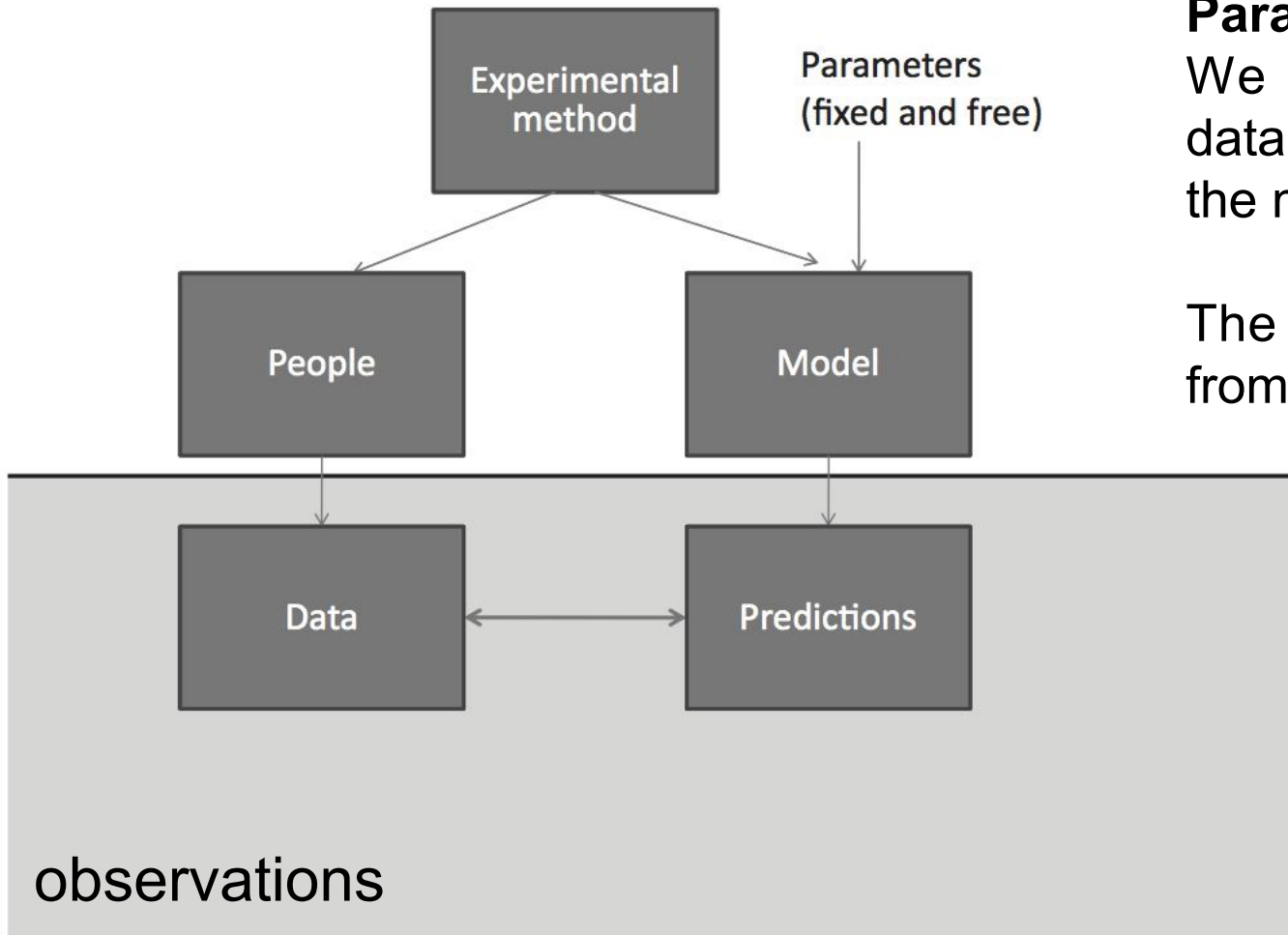
Lecture 4 – Basic Parameter Estimation Techniques 1

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Connecting Model and Data



Parameters: free & fixed

We *estimate* the **free parameters** from the data, by finding those values that maximally **fit** the model's predictions with the data.

The **fixed parameters**, that are not estimated from the data, are **invariant** across datasets.

How to estimate free parameters?

Analytical solution
Grid search
***optim* function in R**

Lecture 4

- Linear regression
- Discrepancy Function
 - Continuous data: Root Mean Squared Deviation (RMSE)
 - Discrete data: Chi-Squared (χ^2)
- Least-Squares Estimation
- Parameter Estimation Techniques
 - Grid search
 - Simplex
 - Simulated Annealing
- Variability in Parameter Estimates
 - Bootstrapping

Linear regression

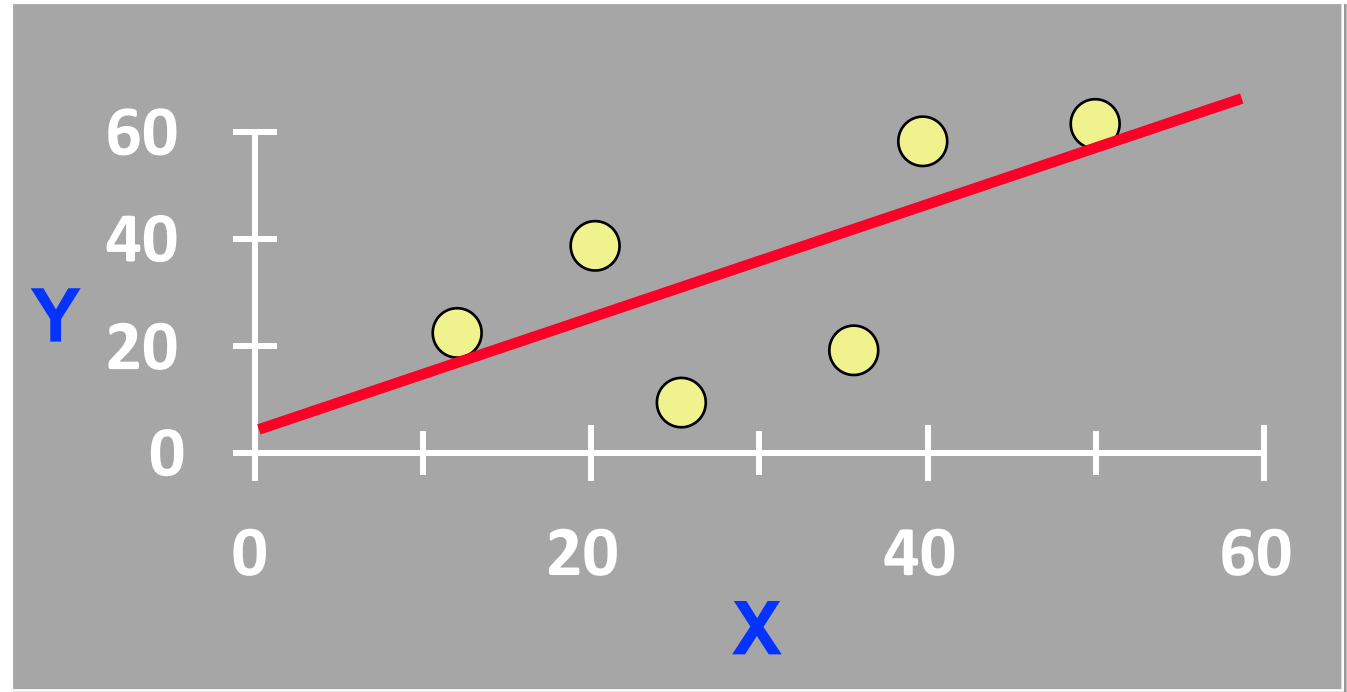
A model with *two* unknown parameters

$$y = b_0 + b_1x + e$$

b_0 - intercept

b_1 - slop

Find the best parameter values,
to minimize the **discrepancy** between
predictions and data.



First, we need define a **discrepancy function**.

It is also called cost function, objective function, loss function, error function...

linear regression with R

```
#define parameters to generate data
```

```
nDataPts <- 20
```

```
rho <- 0.8
```

```
intercept <- 0.0
```

```
#generate synthetic data
```

```
data <- matrix(0,nDataPts,2)
```

```
data[,2] <- rnorm(nDataPts) # x, data, independent variable
```

```
data[,1] <- rnorm(nDataPts)*sqrt(1.0-rho^2) + data[,2]*rho + intercept # y, output
```

```
# default regression analysis
```

```
lm1 = lm(data[,1] ~ data[,2]) # lm(y ~ x)
```

```
summary(lm1)
```

Discrepancy Function - RMSD

Continuous data:

Root Mean Squared Deviation (RMSD)

$$y = b_0 + b_1x + e$$

$$RMSD = \sqrt{\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - \hat{y}_i)^2}{n}}$$

y_i is the i^{th} real data

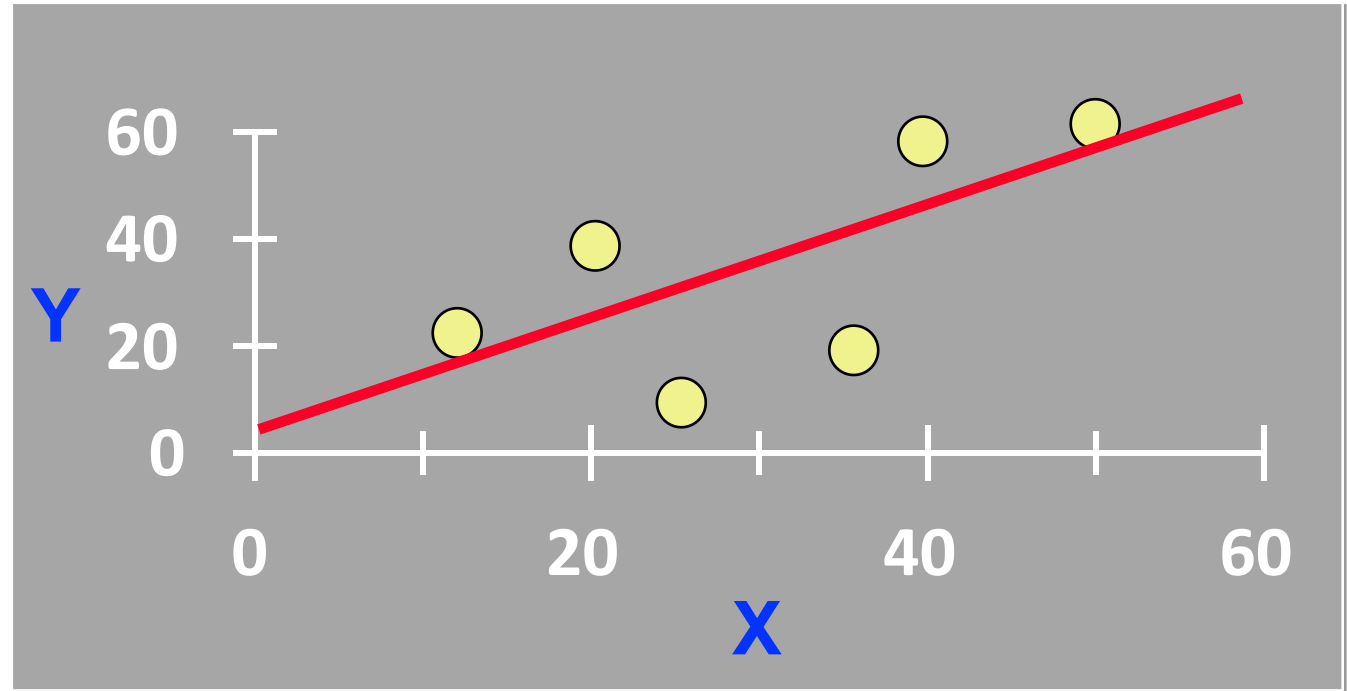
\hat{y}_i is the i^{th} prediction from model

n is the number of data points.

Prediction: $\hat{y}_i = b_0 + b_1x$

Error: $\varepsilon_i = y_i - \hat{y}_i$

Squared error: $\varepsilon_i^2 = (y_i - \hat{y}_i)^2$



“least-squares” 最小二乘法

Discrepancy Function - χ^2

Discrete data: Chi-Squared (χ^2)

Note: Noise can be amplified by a factor N .

$$\chi^2 = \sum_{j=1}^J \frac{(O_j - Np_j)^2}{Np_j}$$

Case1: $p_j = 0.9$, for $N = 10$, $O_j = 9$

Case2: $p_j = 0.9$, for $N = 100$, $O_j = 90$

J refers to the number of response categories.

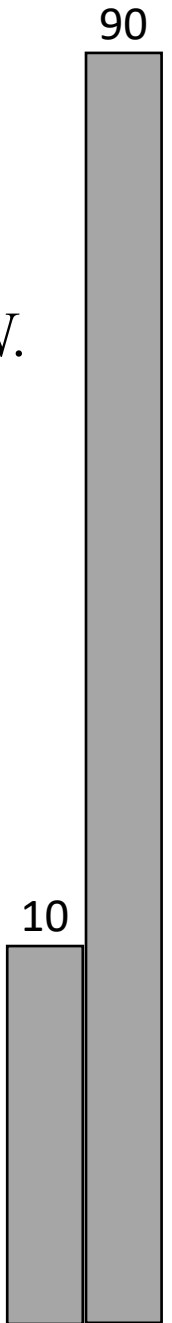
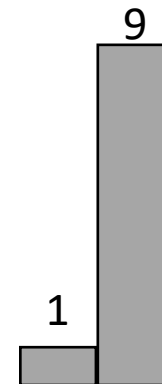
O_j to the number of observed responses within each category j .

N refers to the total number of observed responses

the sum of all O_j is N

p_j is the probabilities of category j predicted by model.

Please calculate the χ^2 error



Least-square estimation – analytical solution

Squared error: $\varepsilon_i^2 = (y_i - \hat{y}_i)^2$

$$\sum_{i=1}^n \varepsilon_i^2 = \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - \beta_0 - \beta_1 x_i)^2$$

$$y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x$$

Least Squares (L-S): Minimize squared error

Derivation of Parameters = 0

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= \frac{\partial \sum \varepsilon_i^2}{\partial \beta_0} = \frac{\partial \sum (y_i - \beta_0 - \beta_1 x_i)^2}{\partial \beta_0} \\ &= -2(n\bar{y} - n\beta_0 - n\beta_1 \bar{x}) \end{aligned}$$

$$\hat{\beta}_0 = \bar{y} - \hat{\beta}_1 \bar{x}$$

Analytical solution

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= \frac{\partial \sum \varepsilon_i^2}{\partial \beta_1} = \frac{\partial \sum (y_i - \beta_0 - \beta_1 x_i)^2}{\partial \beta_1} \\ &= -2 \sum x_i (y_i - \beta_0 - \beta_1 x_i) \\ &= -2 \sum x_i (y_i - \bar{y} + \beta_1 \bar{x} - \beta_1 x_i) \end{aligned}$$

$$\beta_1 \sum x_i (x_i - \bar{x}) = \sum x_i (y_i - \bar{y})$$

$$\beta_1 \sum (x_i - \bar{x})(x_i - \bar{x}) = \sum (x_i - \bar{x})(y_i - \bar{y})$$

$$\hat{\beta}_1 = \frac{SS_{xy}}{SS_{xx}} = \frac{\sum (x_i - \bar{x})(y_i - \bar{y})}{\sum (x_i - \bar{x})^2}$$

Parameter Estimation – grid search

Linear regression

Model: $y = b_0 + b_1x$

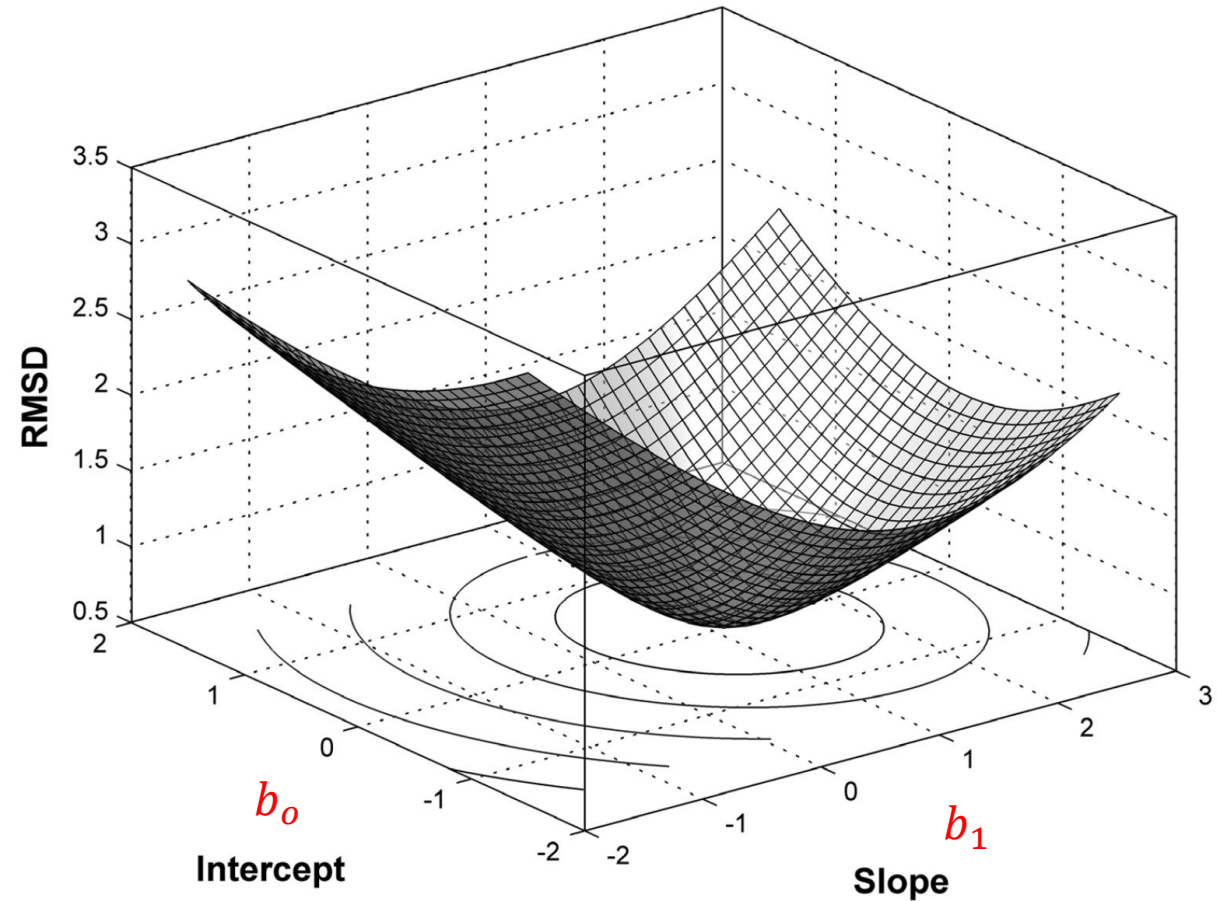
training data: (x_i, y_i) with $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$

1. Generate a grid for (b_0, b_1)
2. Calculate $\hat{y}_i = b_0 + b_1x$
3. Calculate $RMSD = \sqrt{\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - \hat{y}_i)^2}{n}}$

pros: Simple, straightforward, easy to use.

cons: Exponential increase with the number of parameters

An “error surface”



Parameter Estimation - **optim** function in R

optim is a general-purpose optimization function.

Input:

1. Starting values of the model parameters,
2. A *function* to be minimized # such as minimize a discrepancy function
3. The method to be used (optional):
method = c("Nelder-Mead", "BFGS", "CG", "L-BFGS-B", "SANN", "Brent")

Output:

the best-fitting parameter estimates (a list structure)
discrepancy

Parameter Estimation - **optim** function in R

#plot data and current predictions

```
getregpred <- function(parms, data) {  
  getregpred <- parms["b0"] + parms["b1"]*data[,2] # prediction  
}
```

#obtain current predictions and compute discrepancy

```
rmsd <- function(parms, data1) {  
  preds <- getregpred(parms, data1) # parms["b0"] + parms["b1"]*data[,2]  
  rmsd <- sqrt(sum((preds-data1[,1])^2)/length(preds)) # calculate RMSD  
}
```

#assign starting values

```
startParms <- c(-1., .2)  
names(startParms) <- c("b1", "b0")
```

#obtain parameter estimates

```
xout <- optim(startParms, rmsd, data1=data)
```

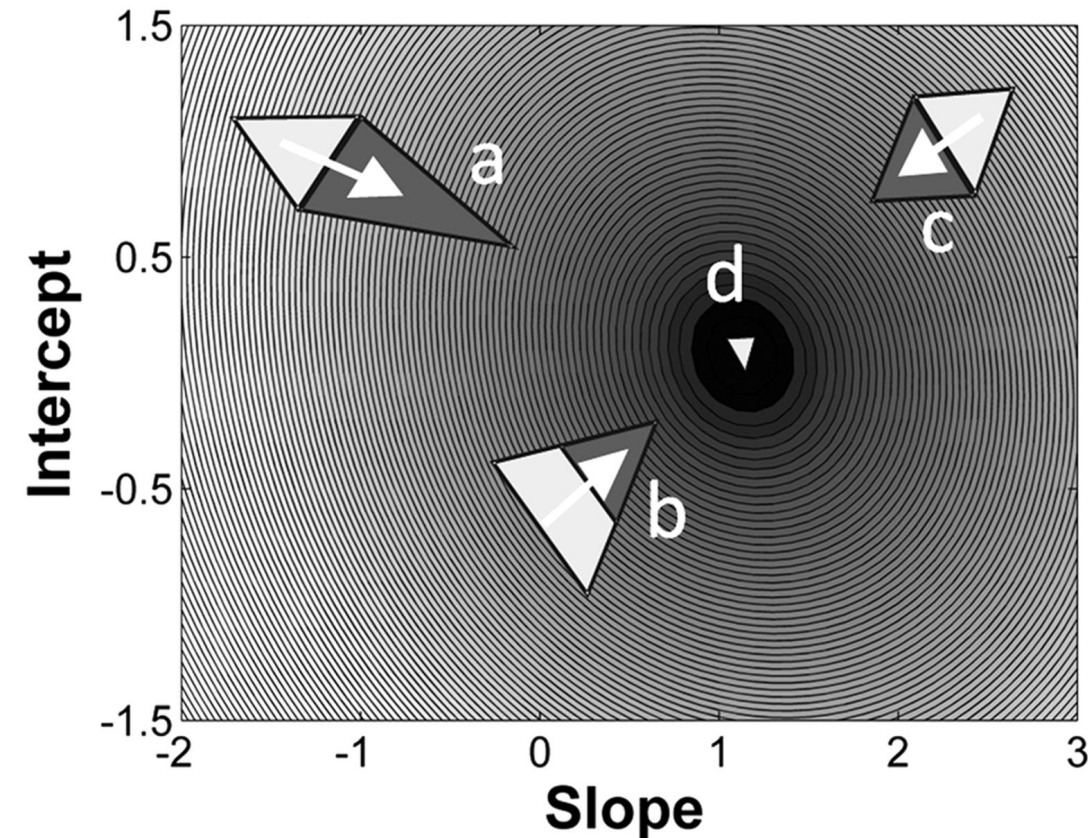
$$RMSD = \sqrt{\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - \hat{y}_i)^2}{n}}$$

Parameter Estimation - Simplex

A **simplex** is a geometrical figure with $M+1$ interconnected points in M dimensions.

e.g. Simplex for Linear regression: 3 points in 2 D.

2-D projection of the error surface



Algorithm:

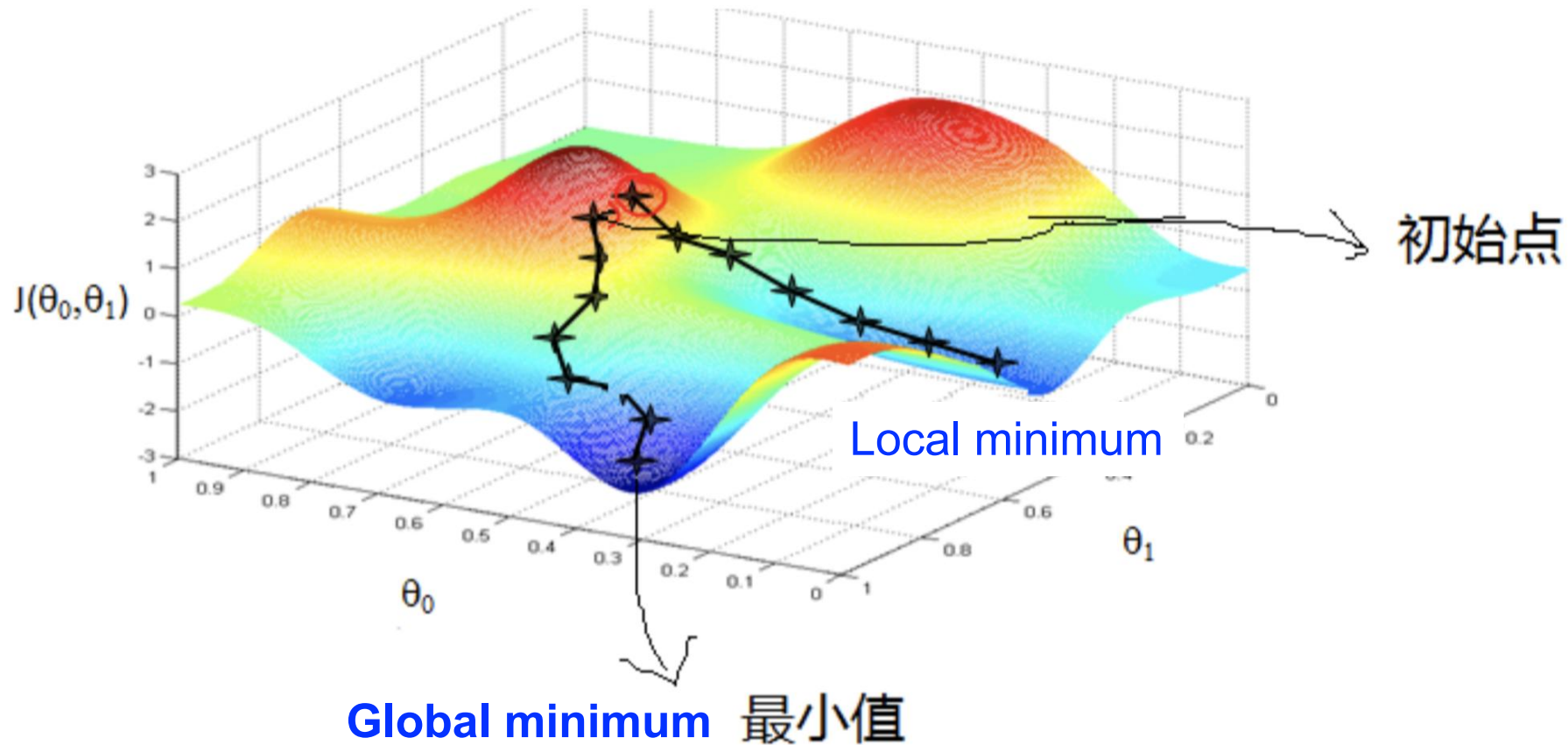
Create a simplex at a location given by the starting values, and calculate the *discrepancy function* for each point of the simplex.

Then, the simplex **move** through the parameter space:

- 1) be reflected/expanded: the point with the greatest discrepancy (worst fit) is flipped to the opposite side;
- 2) be contracted: moving the point (or points) with the worst fit closer toward the center.

Until it **converges** at the best-fitting parameter values.

However, sometimes we are facing a **non-convex** error surface, especially for the complex models.



It is possible that Simplex descends into a *local* minimum rather than the *global* minimum.

We want a method which can “jump” out of local minima --> **Simulated Annealing**

Parameter Estimation - Simulated Annealing

Candidate update $\theta_c^{(t+1)} = D(\theta^{(t)})$

D is a “candidate function”

Stochastic decision

Difference of discrepancy value

$$\Delta f = f(\theta_c^{(t+1)}) - f(\theta^{(t)})$$

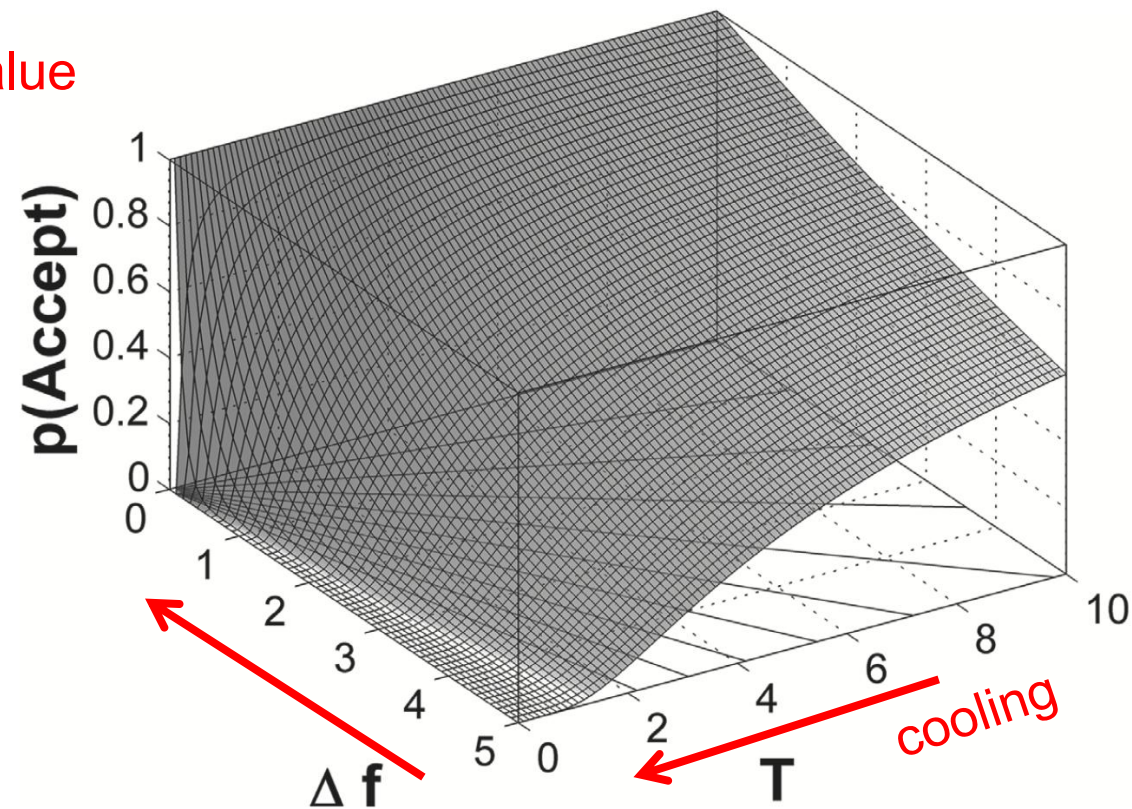
$$\theta^{(t+1)} = \begin{cases} A(\theta_c^{(t+1)}, \theta^{(t)}, T^{(t)}) & \text{if } \Delta f > 0 \\ \theta_c^{(t+1)} & \text{if } \Delta f \leq 0 \end{cases}$$

Acceptance function

$$A(\theta_c^{(t+1)}, \theta^{(t)}, T^{(t)}) = \begin{cases} \theta_c^{(t+1)} & \text{if } p < e^{-\Delta f / T^{(t)}} \\ \theta^{(t)} & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases}$$

Cooling schedule $T^{(t)} = T_0 \alpha^t$ $T^{(t)} = T_0 - \eta t$

Interactions between Δf and T



Parameter Estimation - **optim** function in R

```
#plot data and current predictions
```

```
getregpred <- function(parms, data) {  
  getregpred <- parms["b0"] + parms["b1"]*data[,2]      # prediction  
}
```

```
#obtain current predictions and compute discrepancy
```

```
rmsd <- function(parms, data1) {  
  preds <- getregpred(parms, data1) # parms["b0"] + parms["b1"]*data[,2]  
  rmsd <- sqrt(sum((preds-data1[,1])^2)/length(preds)) # calculate RMSD  
}
```

```
#assign starting values
```

```
startParms <- c(-1., .2)  
names(startParms) <- c("b1", "b0")
```

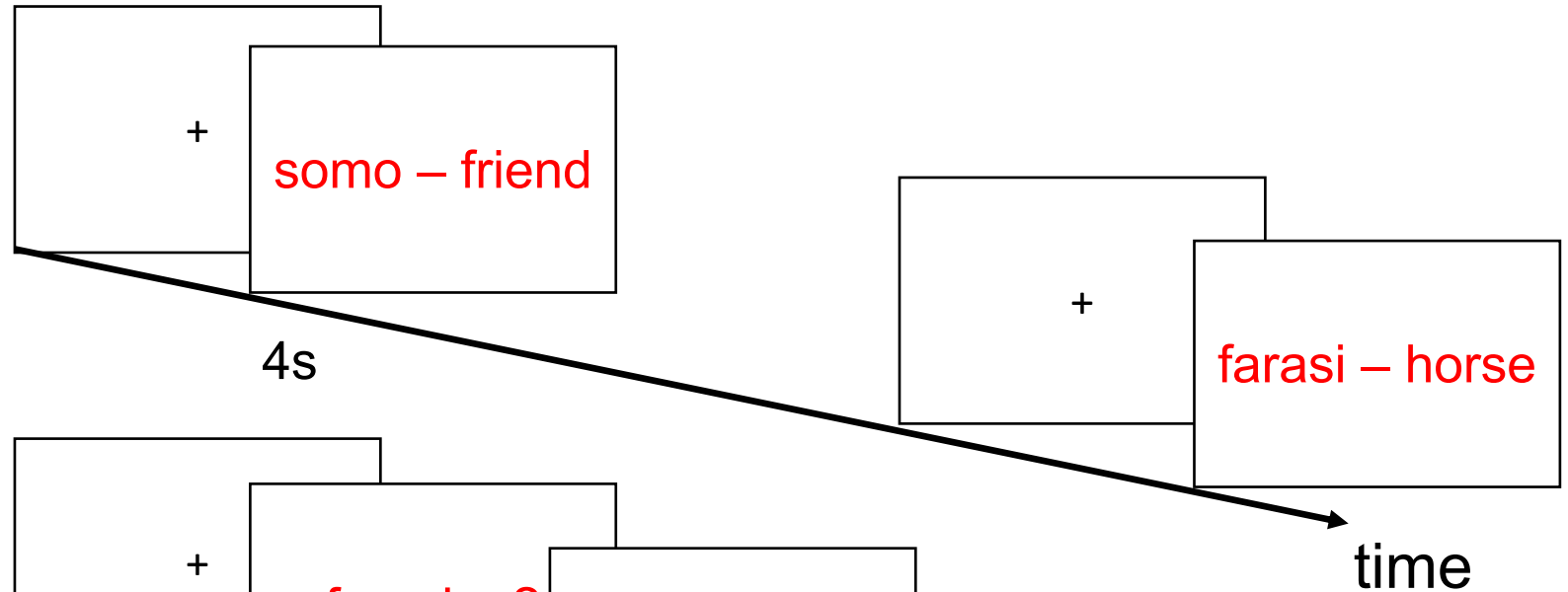
```
#obtain parameter estimates
```

```
xout <- optim(startParms, rmsd, data1=data, method = "SANN")
```

A memory task

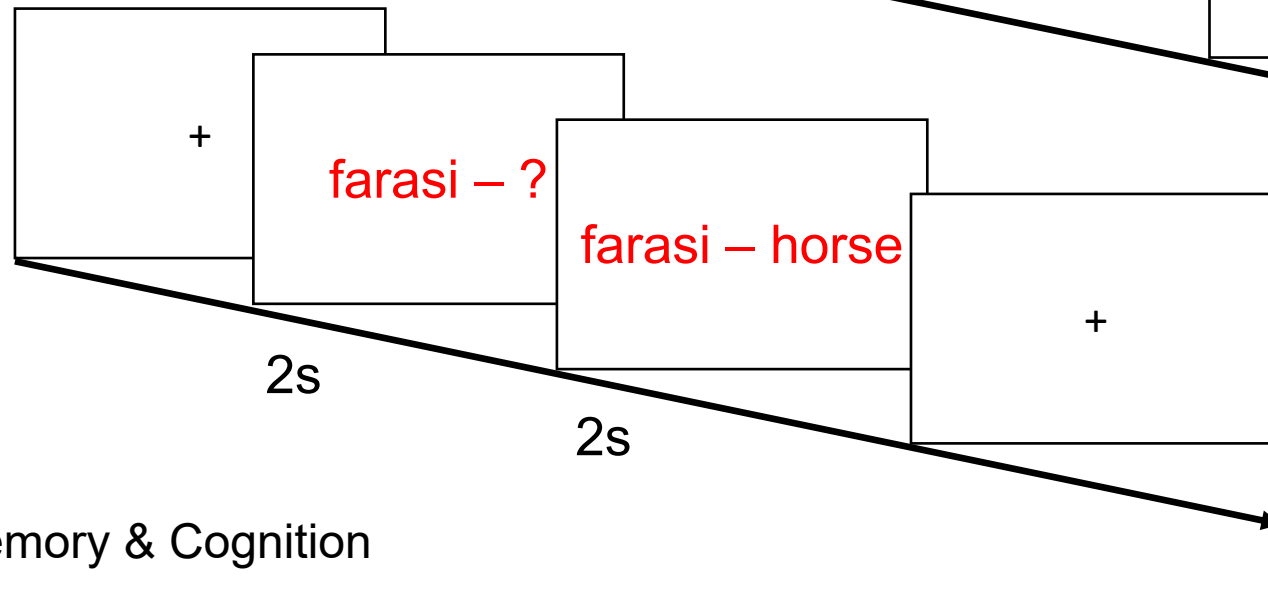
You have to remember 60 Swahili–English word pairs.

Learning session

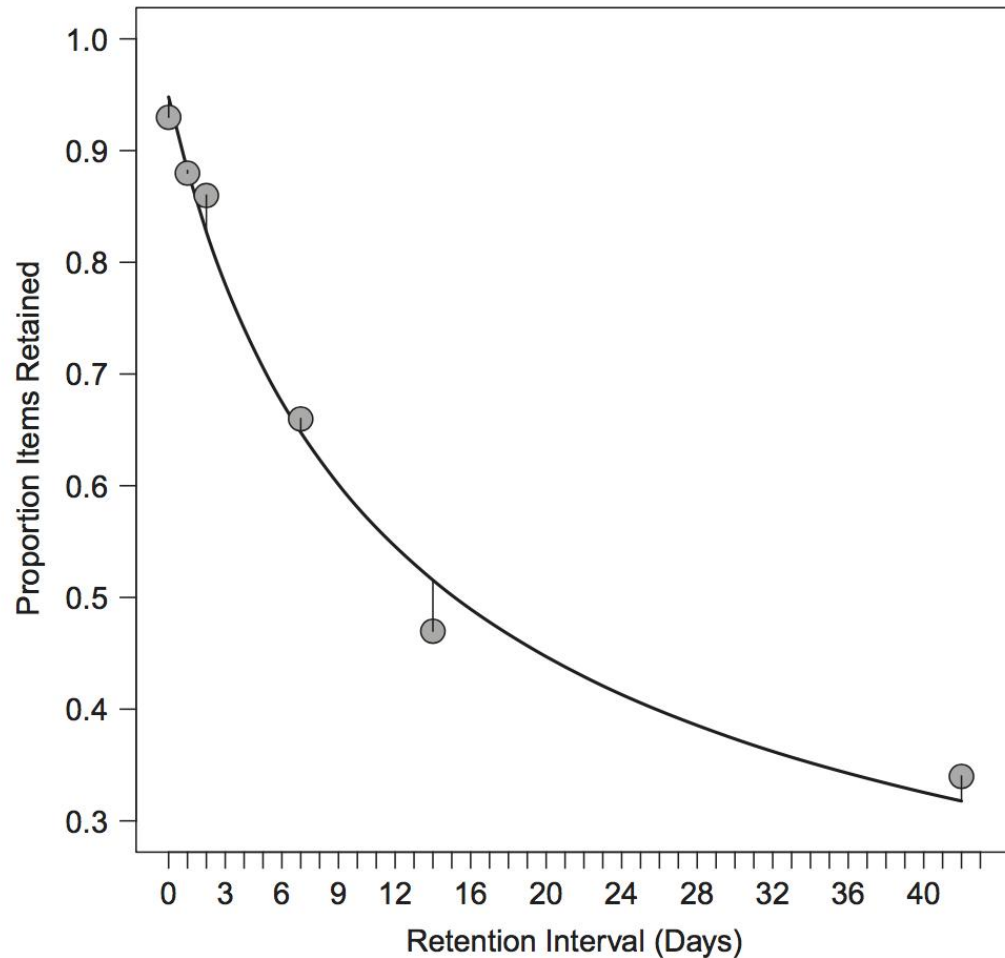


Test session

5 min, 1 day, 2 days,
7 days, 14 days, or 42 days



A power model to characterize forgetting



We have behavioral data with 5 min, 1 day, 2 days, 7 days, 14 days, or 42 days of retention intervals.

```
rec <- c(.93,.88,.86,.66,.47,.34)
ri  <- c(.0035, 1, 2, 7, 14, 42)
```

A power model: $p = a(bt + 1)^{-c}$

Please use **optim** function to find the best-fitting a, b, c.

#discrepancy function for power forgetting function

```
powdiscrep <- function (parms,rec,ri) {  
  if (any(parms<0)||any(parms>1)) return(1e6)  
  pow_pred <- parms["a"] *(parms["b"]*ri + 1)^(-parms["c"]) # Prediction  
  return(sqrt( sum((pow_pred-rec)^2)/length(ri) ) )} # RMSE
```

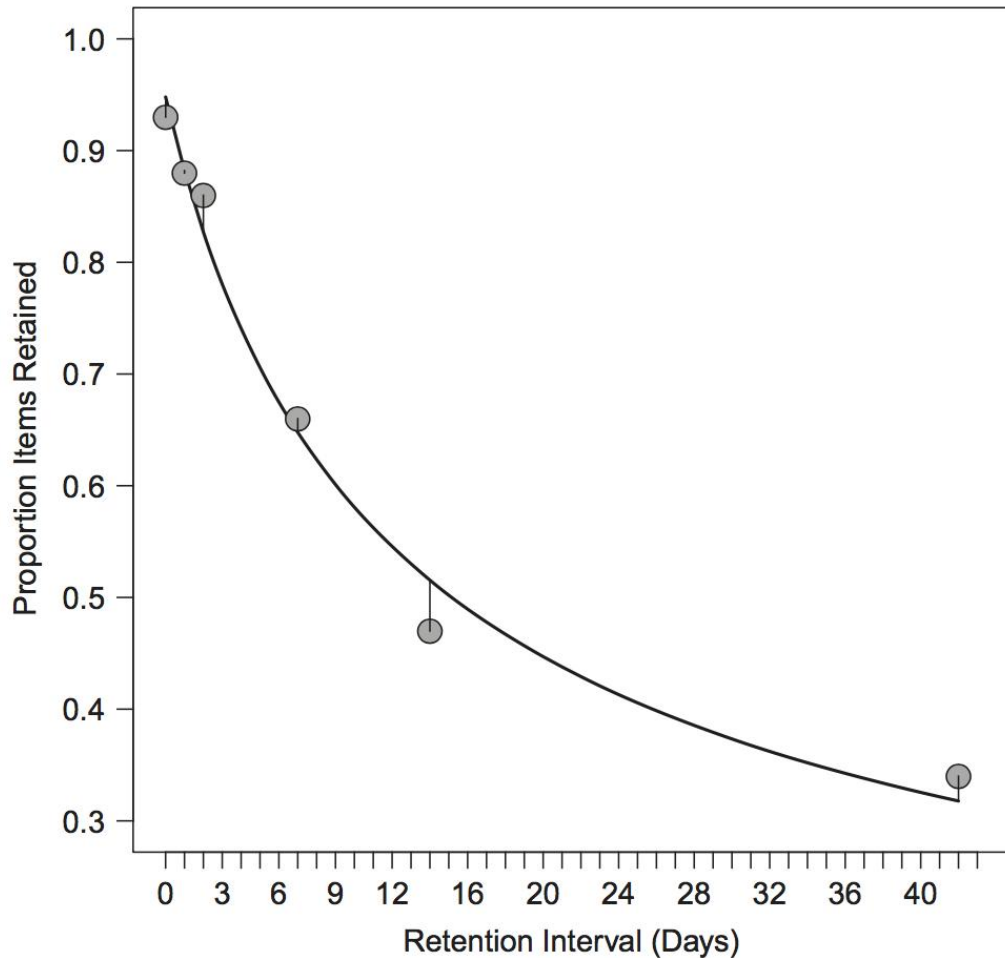
#Carpenter et al. (2008) Experiment 1

```
rec <- c(.93,.88,.86,.66,.47,.34) # y: recall proportion  
ri <- c(.0035, 1, 2, 7, 14, 42) # x: retention interval
```

#initialize starting values

```
sparms <- c(1,.05,.7)  
names(sparms) <- c("a","b","c")  
#obtain best-fitting estimates  
pout <- optim(sparms, powdiscrep, rec=rec, ri=ri)  
pow_pred <- pout$par["a"] *(pout$par["b"]*c(0:max(ri)) + 1)^(-pout$par["c"])
```

Models to characterize forgetting



We have behavioral data with 5 min, 1 day, 2 days, 7 days, 14 days, or 42 days of retention intervals.

```
rec <- c(.93,.88,.86,.66,.47,.34)
ri <- c(.0035, 1, 2, 7, 14, 42)
```

A power model: $p = a(bt + 1)^{-c}$

Please use **optim** function to find the best-fitting a, b, c.

$a = 0.95$

$b = 0.13$

$c = 0.58$

How about an exponential model?

$$p = a + be^{-ct}$$

#discrepancy function for power forgetting function

```
ediscrep <- function (parms,rec,ri) {  
  if (any(parms<0)||any(parms>1)) return(1e6)  
  e_pred <- parms["a"] + parms["b"]*exp( -parms["c"]*ri ) # Prediction  
  return(sqrt( sum((e_pred-rec)^2)/length(ri) )) # RMSE  
}
```

#Carpenter et al. (2008) Experiment 1

```
rec <- c(.93,.88,.86,.66,.47,.34) # y: recall proportion  
ri <- c(.0035, 1, 2, 7, 14, 42) # x: retention interval
```

#initialize starting values

```
sparms <- c(1,.05,.7)  
names(sparms) <- c("a","b","c")  
#obtain best-fitting estimates  
pout <- optim(sparms, ediscrep, rec=rec, ri=ri)  
e_pred <- pout$par["a"] + pout$par["b"]*exp( -pout$par["c"]*c(0:(max(ri))) )
```

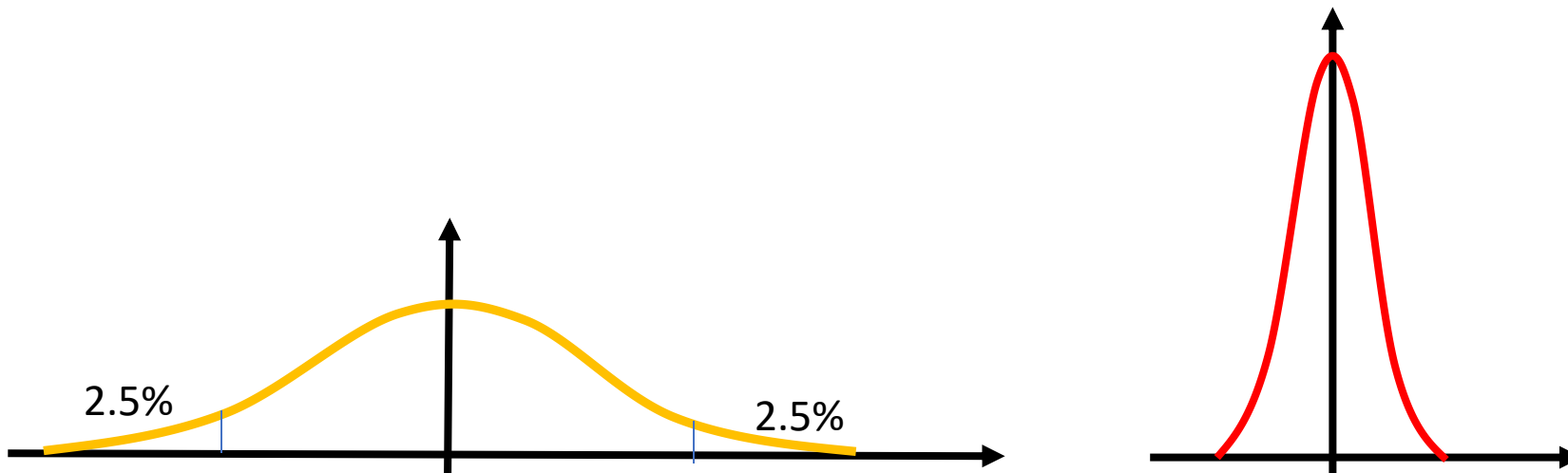
Variability in Parameter Estimates

The *parameter estimation techniques* have shown so far provide a *best estimate* of the parameter values. But they are **point estimates**.

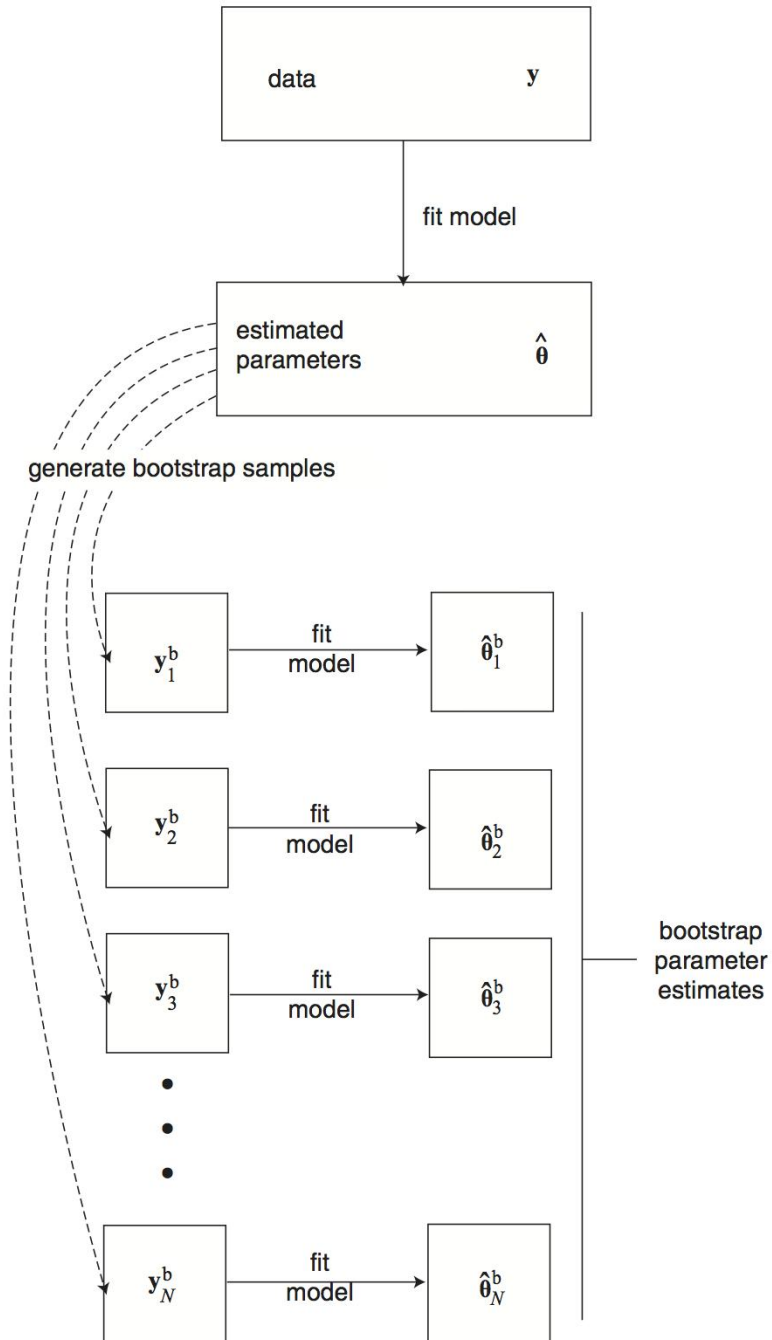
They do **not** carry any information about the **variability** in these estimates.

They **lack** of any known statistical properties.

We do **not** know the **Confidence Interval**.



Bootstrapping



Procedure:

We **estimate parameters** by fitting the model.

We generate T samples by running T **simulations** from the model using the estimated parameters.

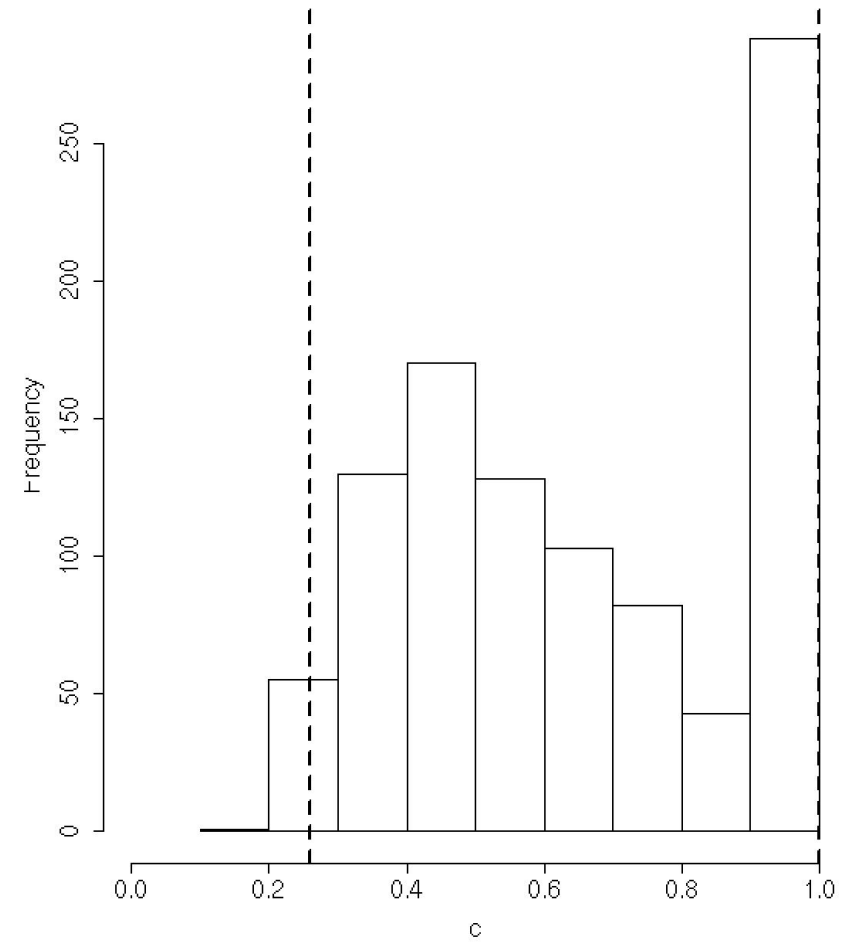
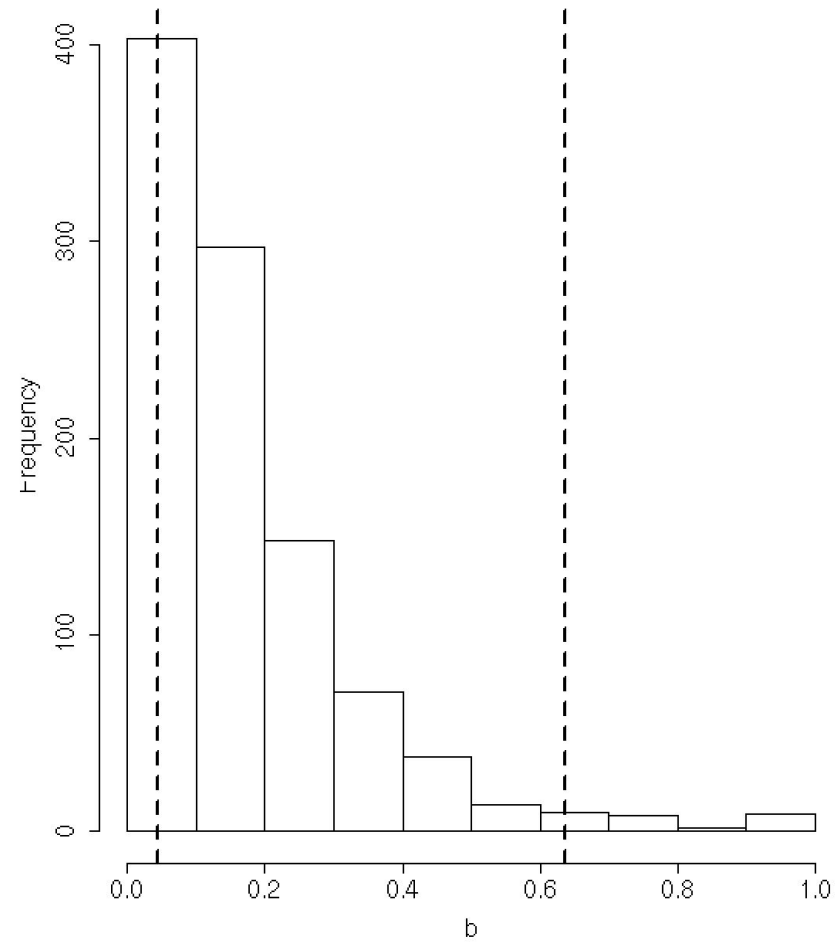
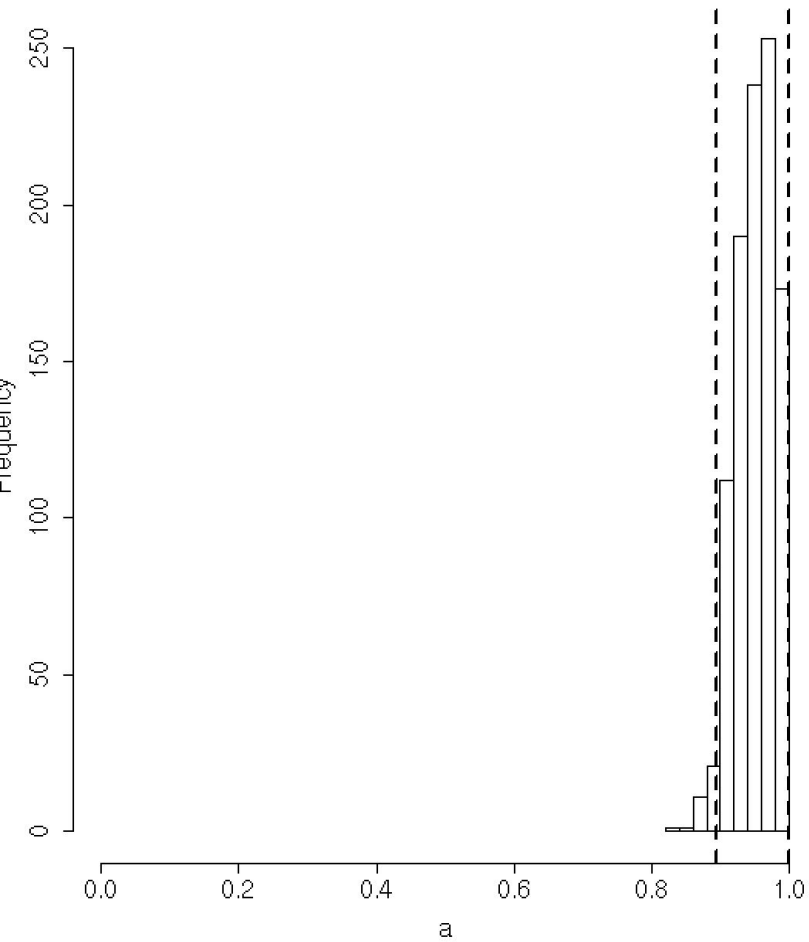
(Each generated sample should contain **N data points**, where N is the number of data points in the original sample.)

We then **fit the model** to each of the T generated samples.

The variability across the T samples in the parameter estimates then gives us some idea about the variability in the parameters.

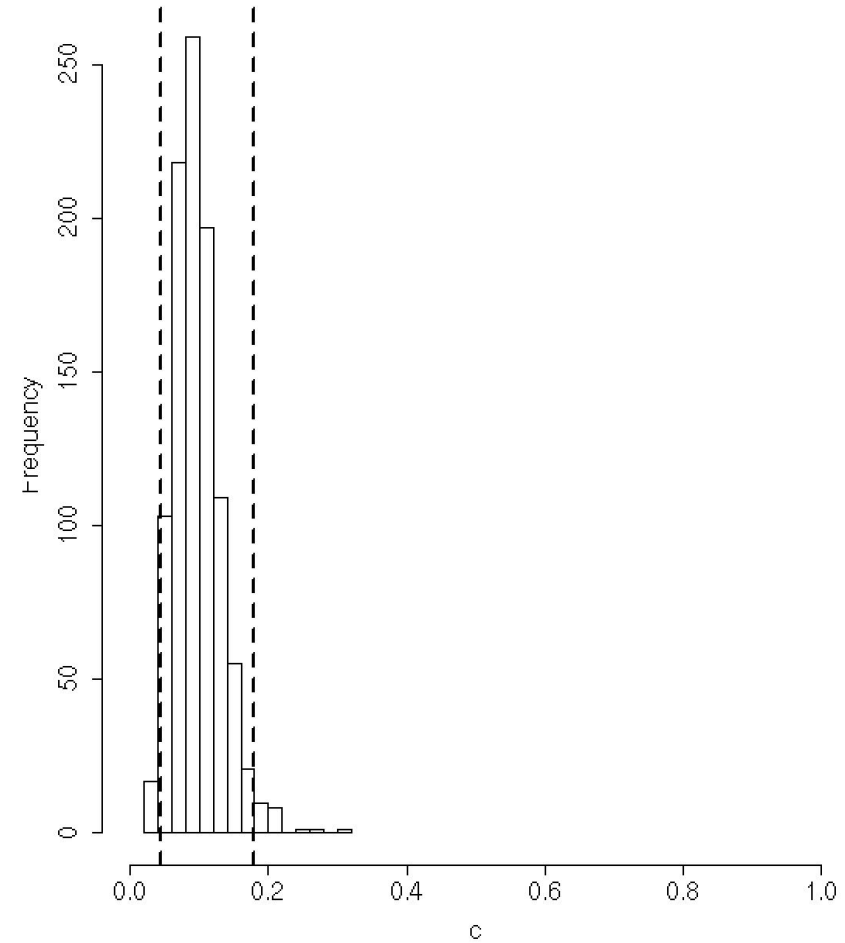
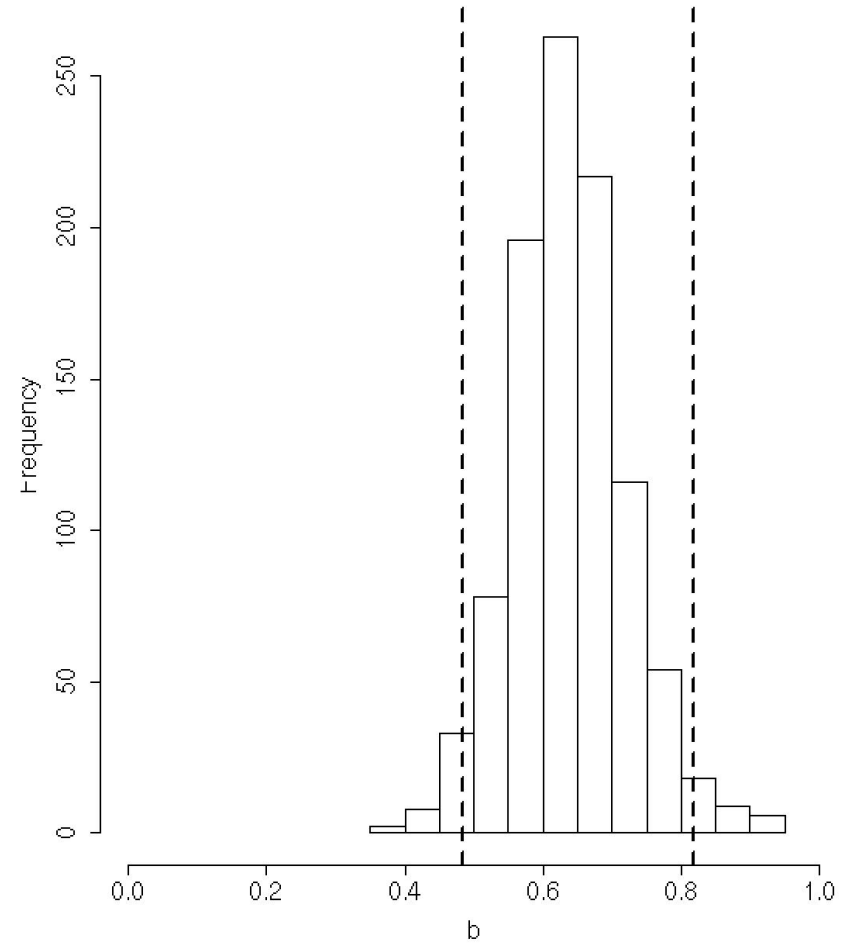
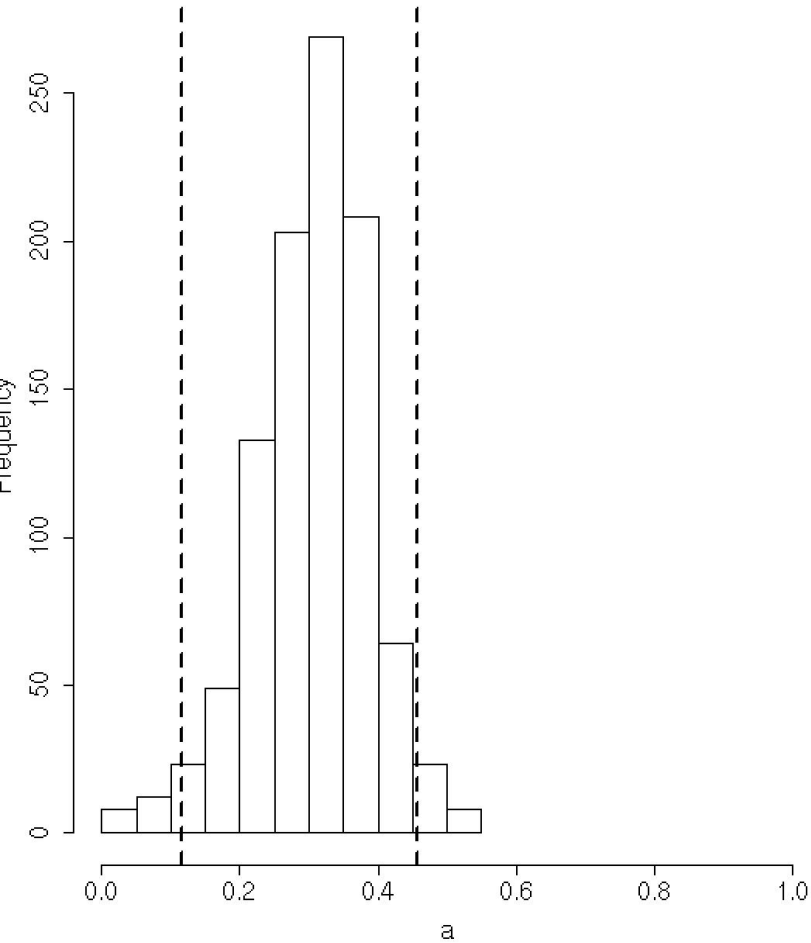
Bootstrapping results – power model

$$p = a(bt + 1)^{-c}$$



Bootstrapping results – exponential model

$$p = a + be^{-ct}$$



Summary of Lecture 4

- Linear regression
- Discrepancy Function
 - Continuous data: Root Mean Squared Deviation (RMSE)
 - Discrete data: Chi-Squared (χ^2)
- Least-Squares Estimation (最小二乘法)
- Parameter Estimation Techniques
 - Grid search (网格搜索法)
 - Simplex (单纯形法)
 - Simulated Annealing (模拟退火算法)
- Variability in Parameter Estimates
 - Bootstrapping (自助法)

Recommended materials

Textbook

- Computational Modeling of Cognition and Behavior, Chapter 3

Must read.

Research Paper

- Carpenter et al. (2008), The effects of tests on learning and forgetting, Memory & Cognition

Not obliged. For fun.

A reminder

In order to get 10% credits, you have to form your team for course project by **next week**.

Reminder - Homework

Tip: An example on YouTube
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i6xMBig-pP4>

Implement the task with Python (可以用PyGame)

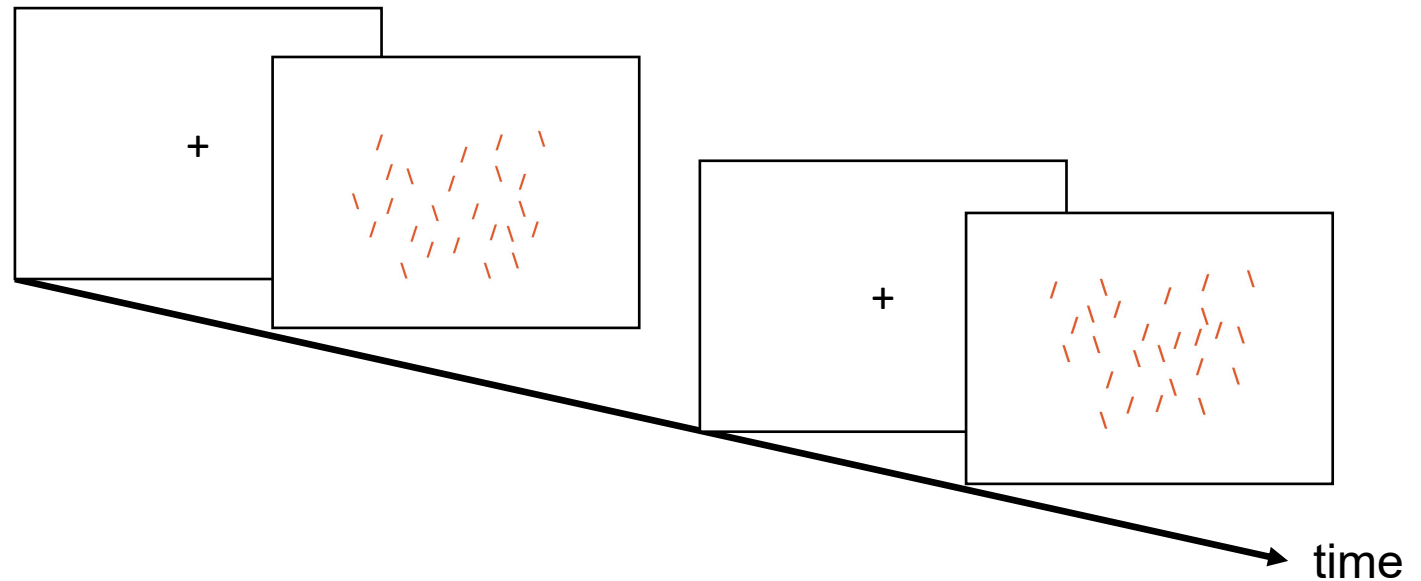
Some code is available at github

DDL: March 8, 2021

Requirements

1. **60 trials in total**
2. The **number** of \ and / is sampled from a uniform distribution [20, 40] and cannot be equal.
3. Randomize the **locations** of \ and /
4. **Record the following information**

- | | |
|----------------------------|---|
| 1) Subject ID | 5) The number of \ in a trial |
| 2) Trial ID | 6) The number of / in a trial |
| 3) Time: onset of stimulus | 7) The response: left or right |
| 4) Time: response is made | 8) Response time: time in 4) – time in 3) |



输出到一个csv文件
一行就是一个trial的信息
每一行有8列