



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

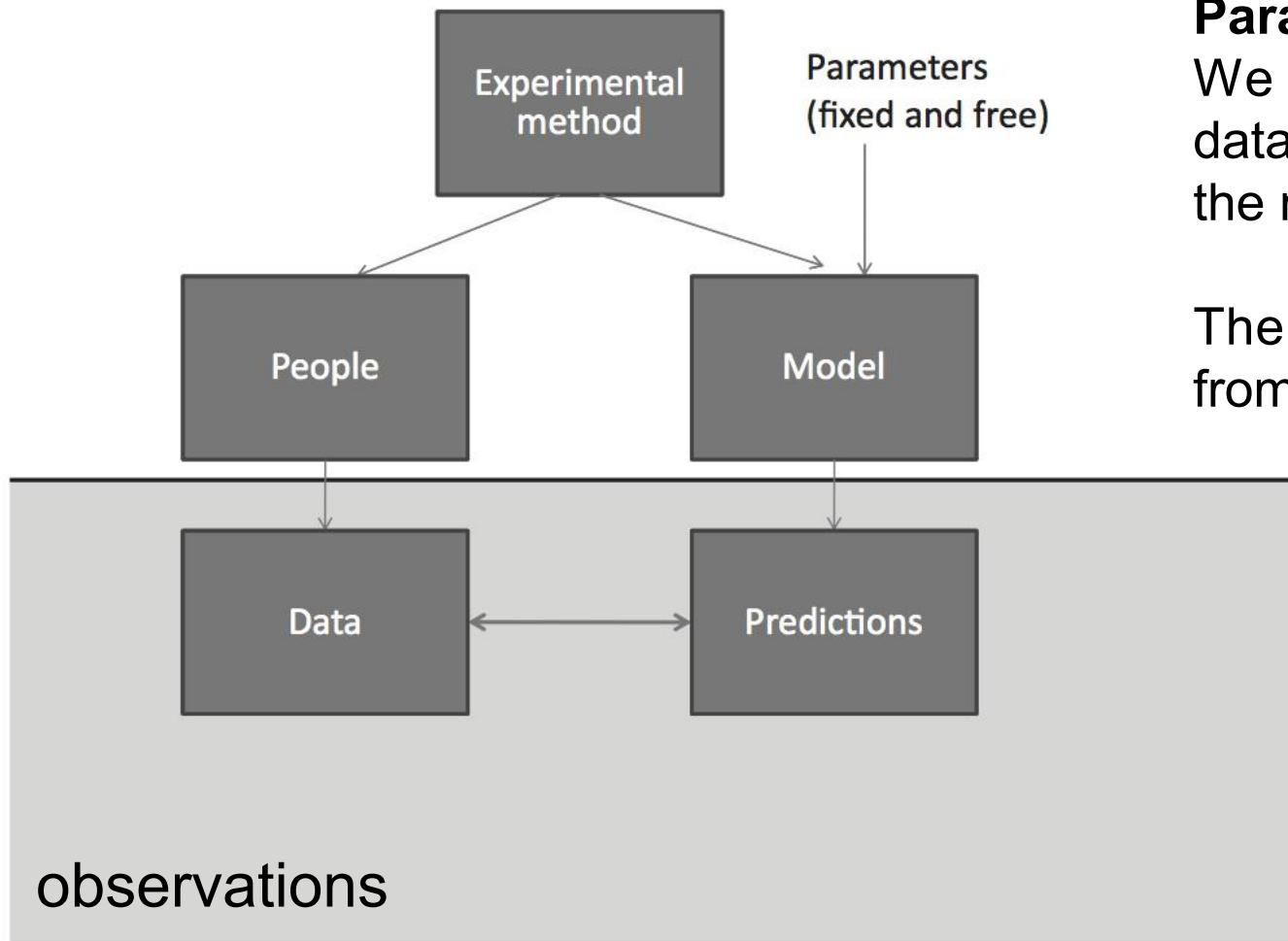
### Lecture 4 – Basic Parameter Estimation Techniques 1

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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 (RMSD)
  - Discrete data: Chi-Squared ( $\chi^2$ )
- Least-Squares Estimation
- Parameter Estimation Techniques
  - Grid search
  - Simplex
  - Simulated Annealing
- Variability in Parameter Estimates
  - Bootstrapping

# Linear regression

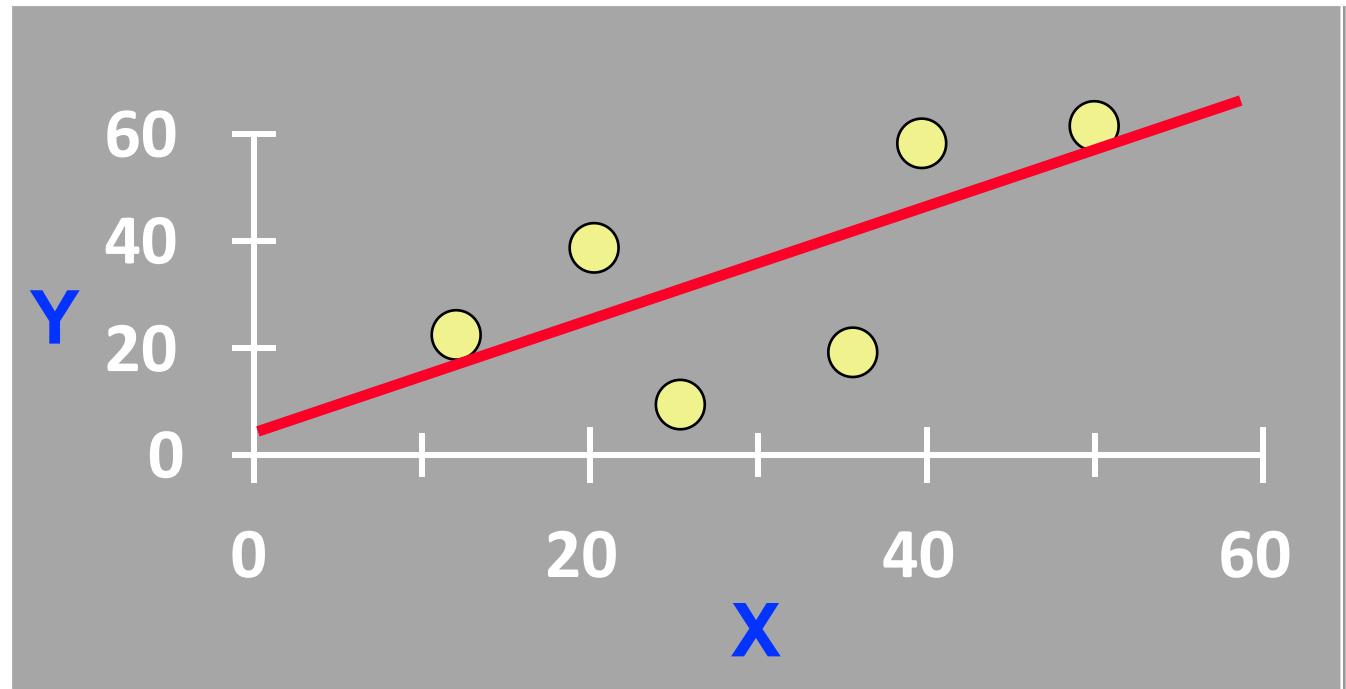
A model with *two* unknown parameters

$b_0$  - intercept

$b_1$  - slop

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

$$y = b_0 + b_1 x + e$$



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)

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

$y_i$  is the  $i^{th}$  real data

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

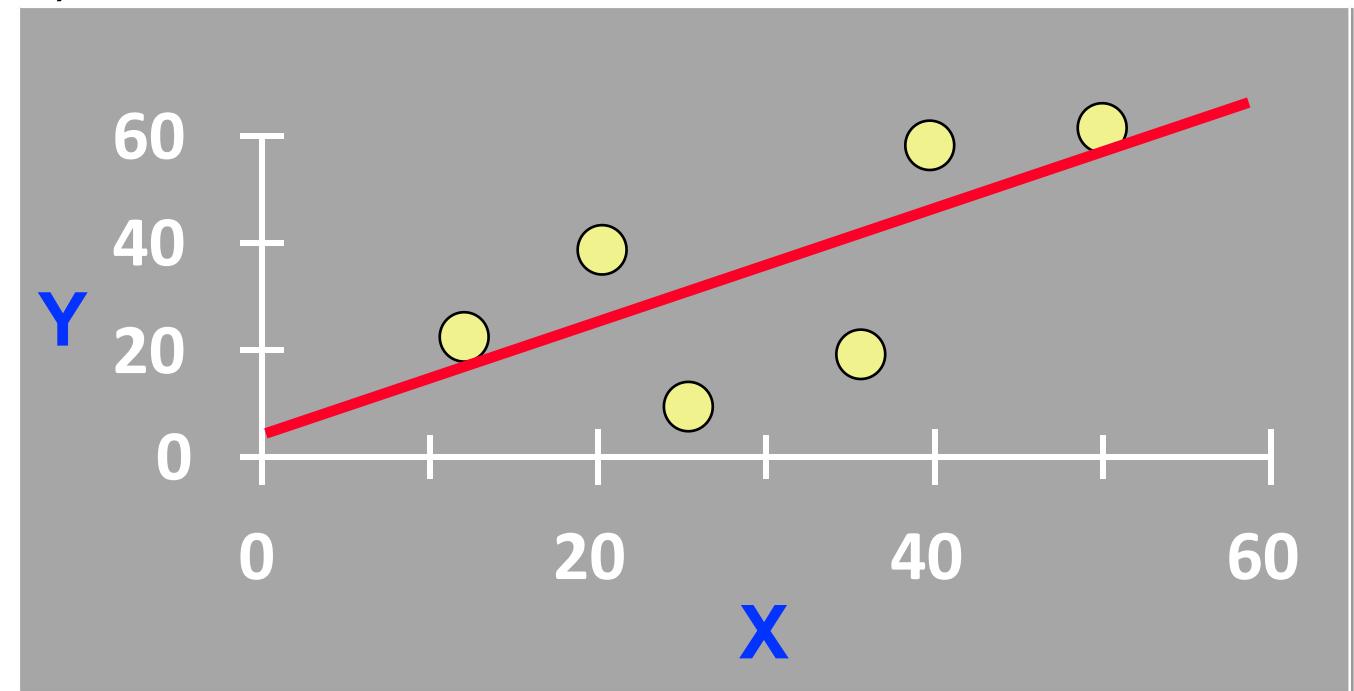
$n$  is the number of data points.

Prediction:  $\hat{y}_i = b_0 + b_1 x$

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

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

$$y = b_0 + b_1 x + e$$



“least-squares” 最小二乘法

# Discrepancy Function - $\chi^2$

**Discrete data:** Chi-Squared ( $\chi^2$ )

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

Note: Noise can be amplified by a factor  $N$ .

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.

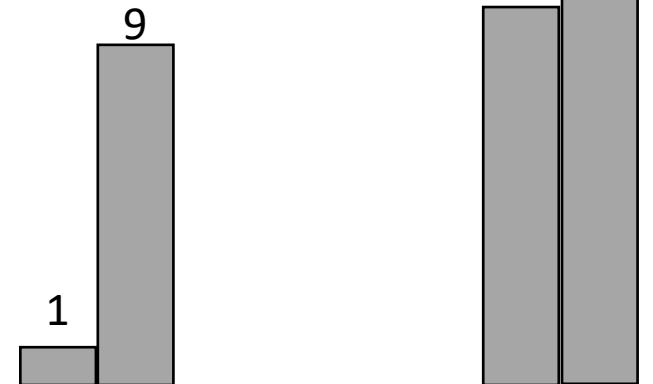
$O_j$  to the number of observed responses within each category  $j$ .

$N$  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  $\chi^2$  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

$$0 = \frac{\partial \sum \varepsilon_i^2}{\partial \beta_0} = \frac{\partial \sum (y_i - \beta_0 - \beta_1 x_i)^2}{\partial \beta_0}$$

$$= -2(n\bar{y} - n\beta_0 - n\beta_1 \bar{x})$$

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

Analytical solution

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

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

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

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

# Parameter Estimation – grid search

## Linear regression

Model:  $y = b_0 + b_1 x$

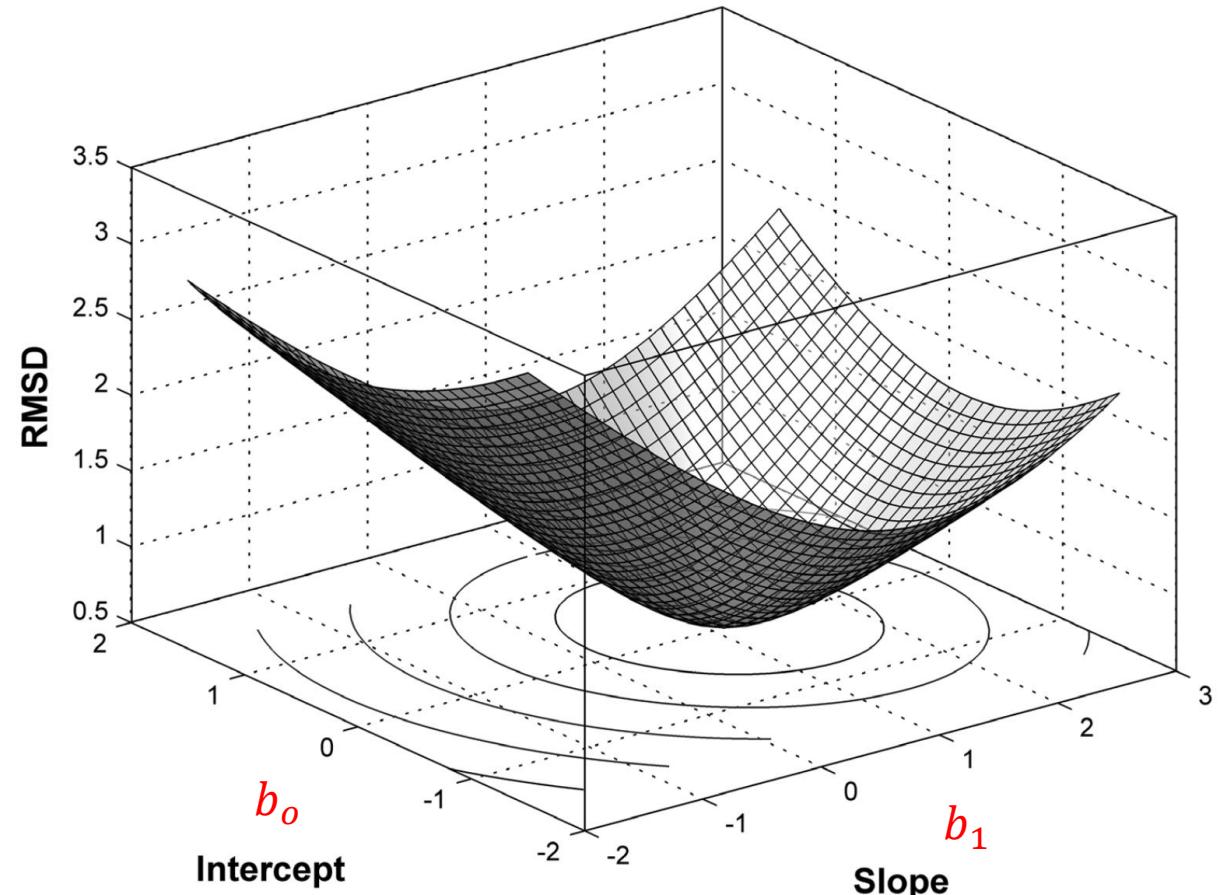
training data:  $(x_i, y_i)$  with  $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$

1. Generate a grid for  $(b_0, b_1)$
2. Calculate  $\hat{y}_i = b_0 + b_1 x$
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)
```

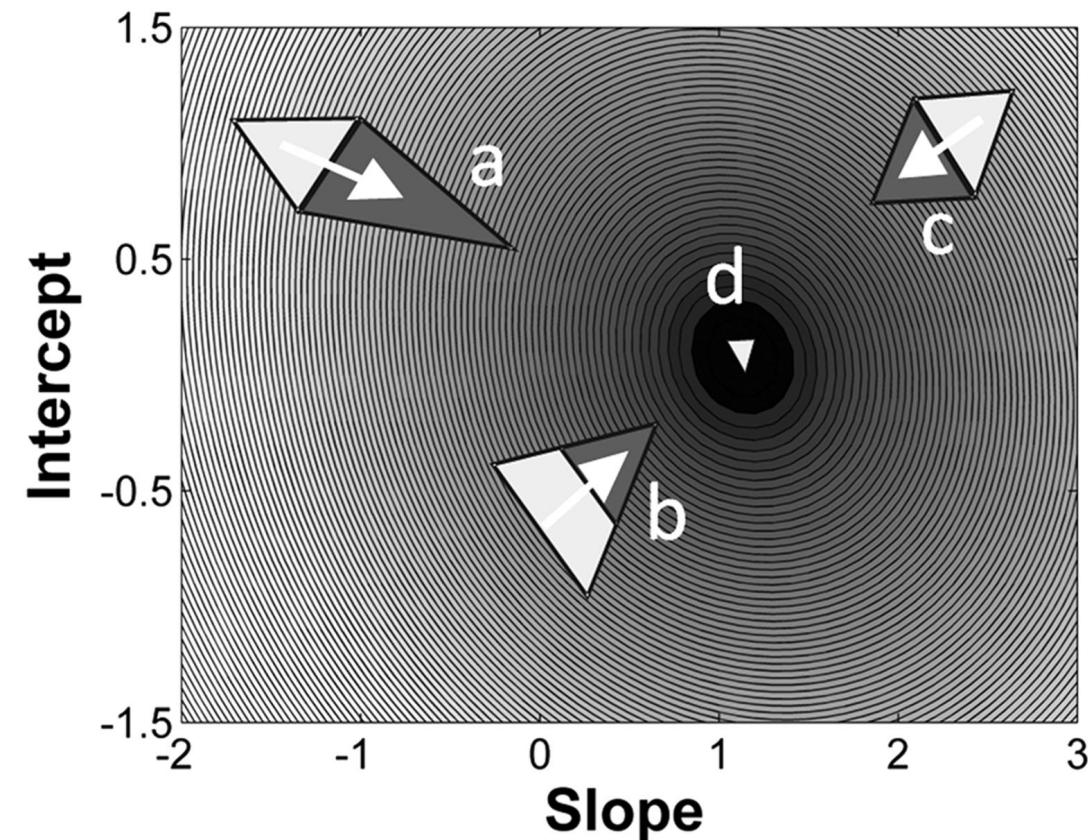
$$RMSD = \sqrt{\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - \hat{y}_i)^2}{n}}$$

# 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:

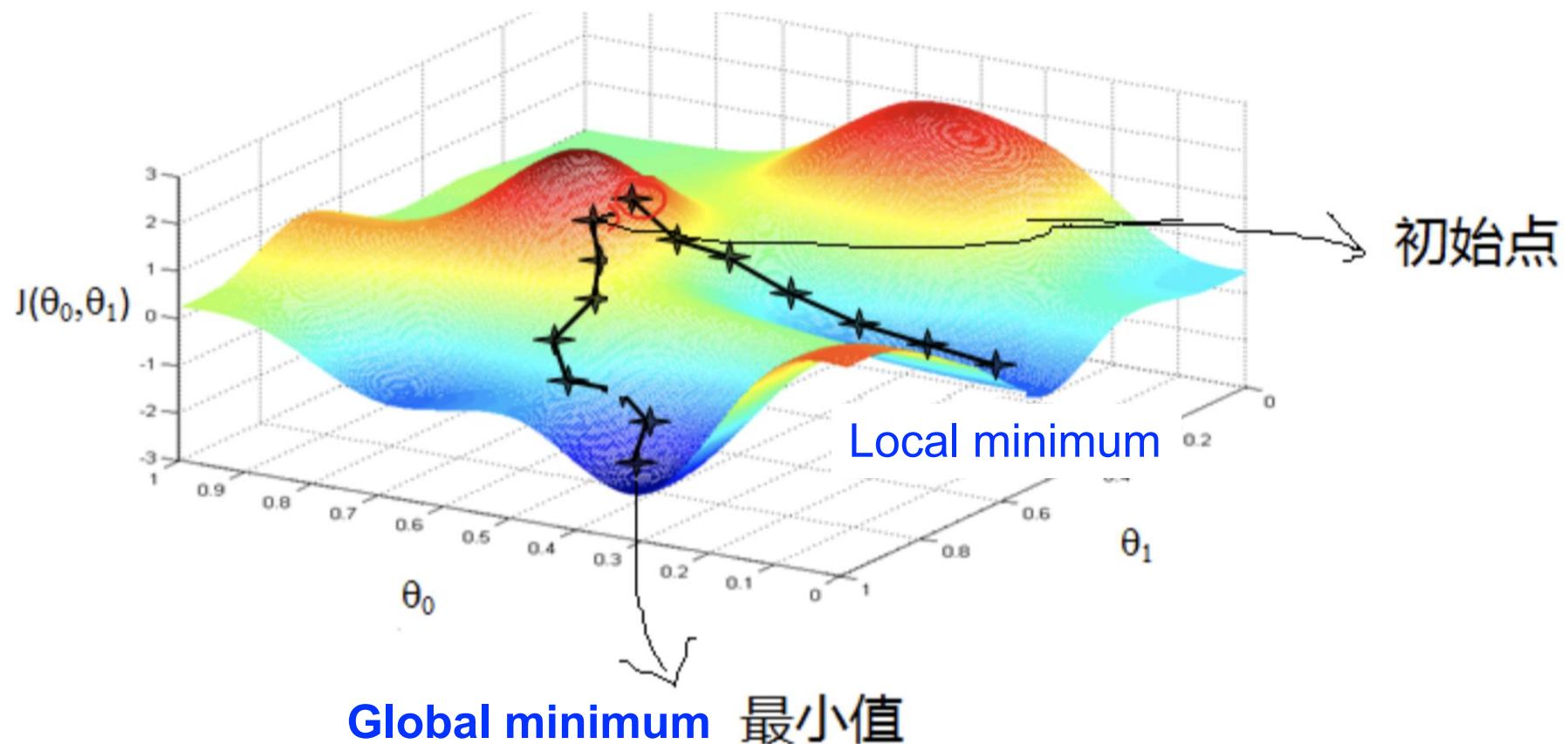
Create a **simplex** at a location given by the starting values, and calculate the *discrepancy function* for each point of the simplex.

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

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

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

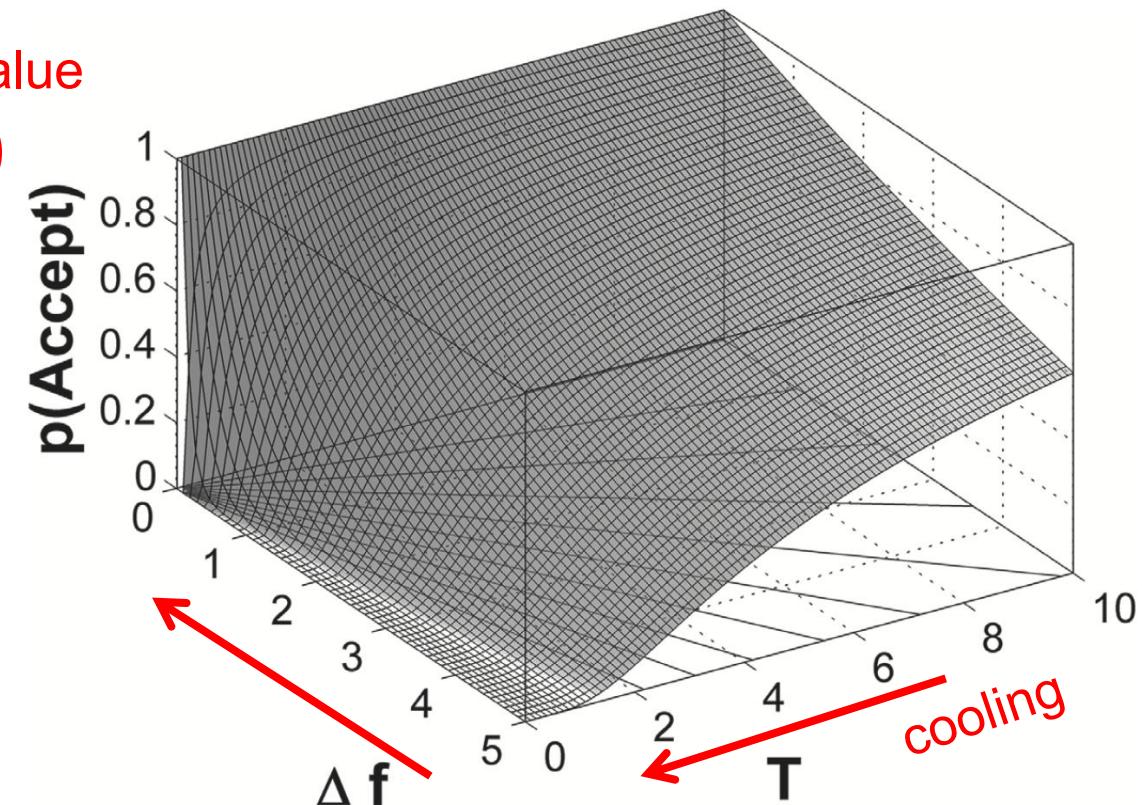
Acceptance function

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

Cooling schedule

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

Interactions between  $\Delta f$  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
}

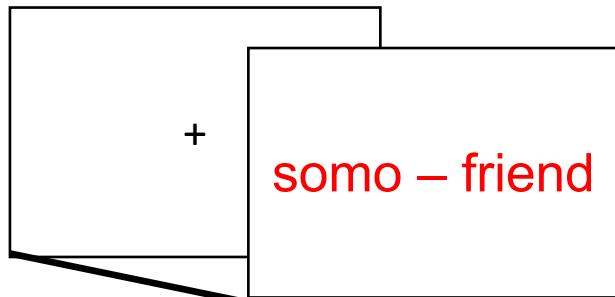
#assign starting values
startParms <- c(-1., .2)
names(startParms) <- c("b1", "b0")

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

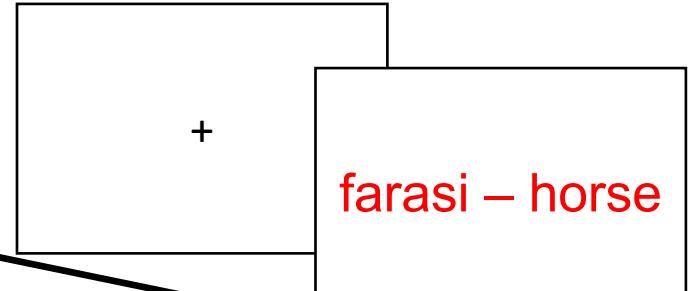
# A memory task

You have to remember 60 Swahili–English word pairs.

## Learning session



4s



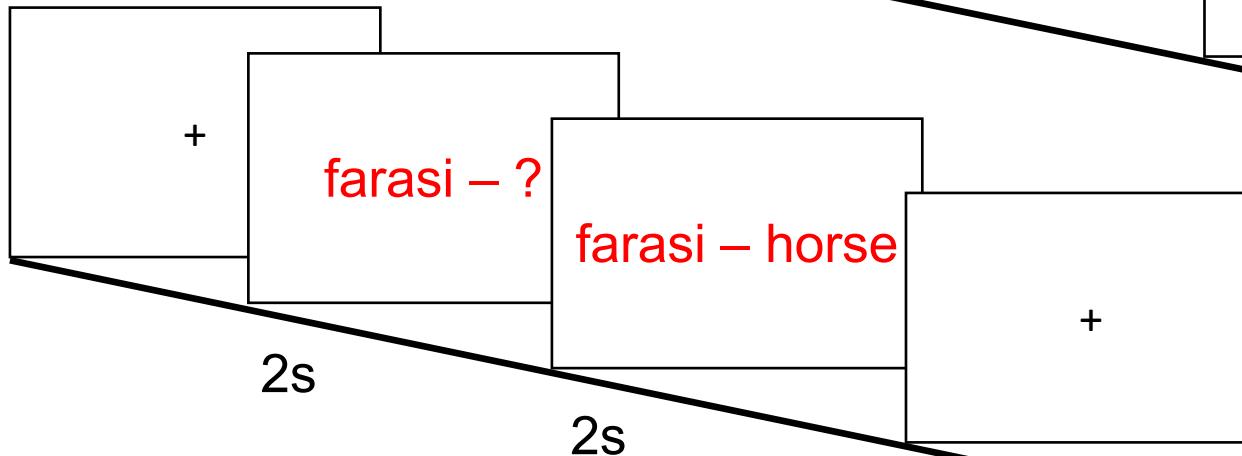
+

farasi – horse

time

## Test session

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



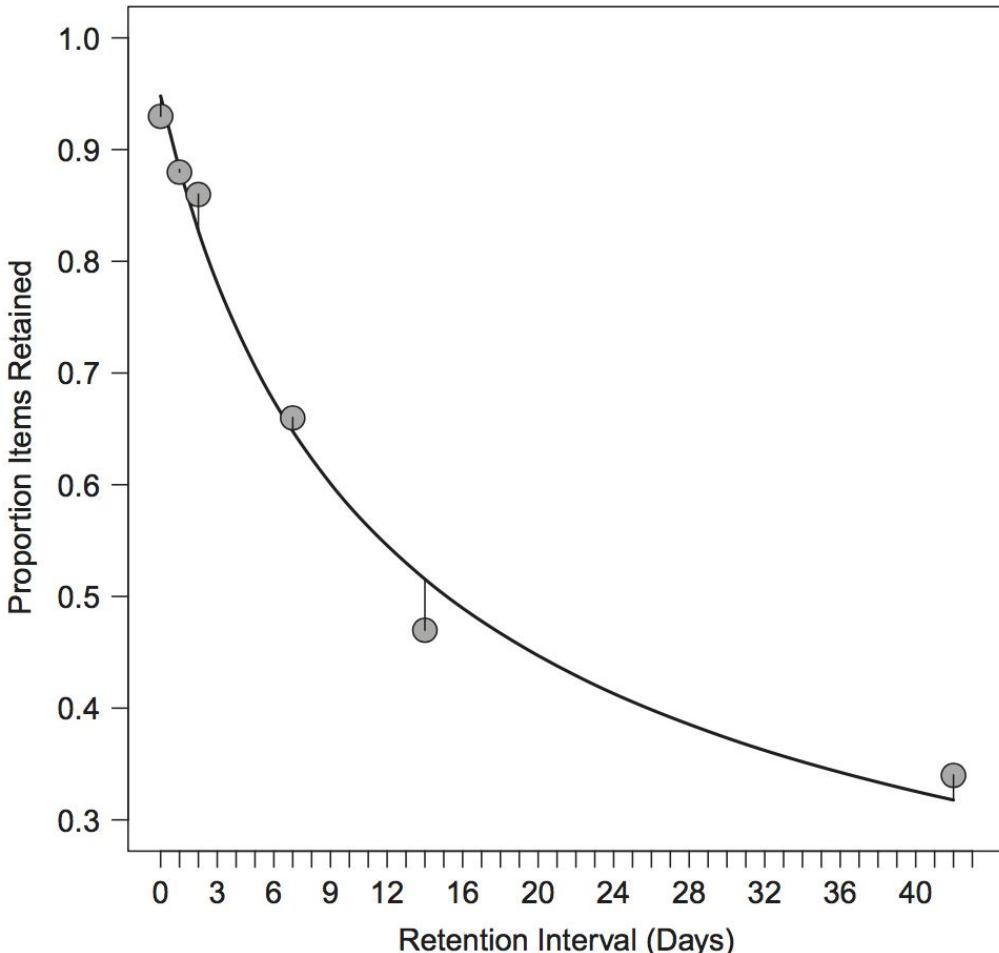
2s

2s

+

time

# 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
```

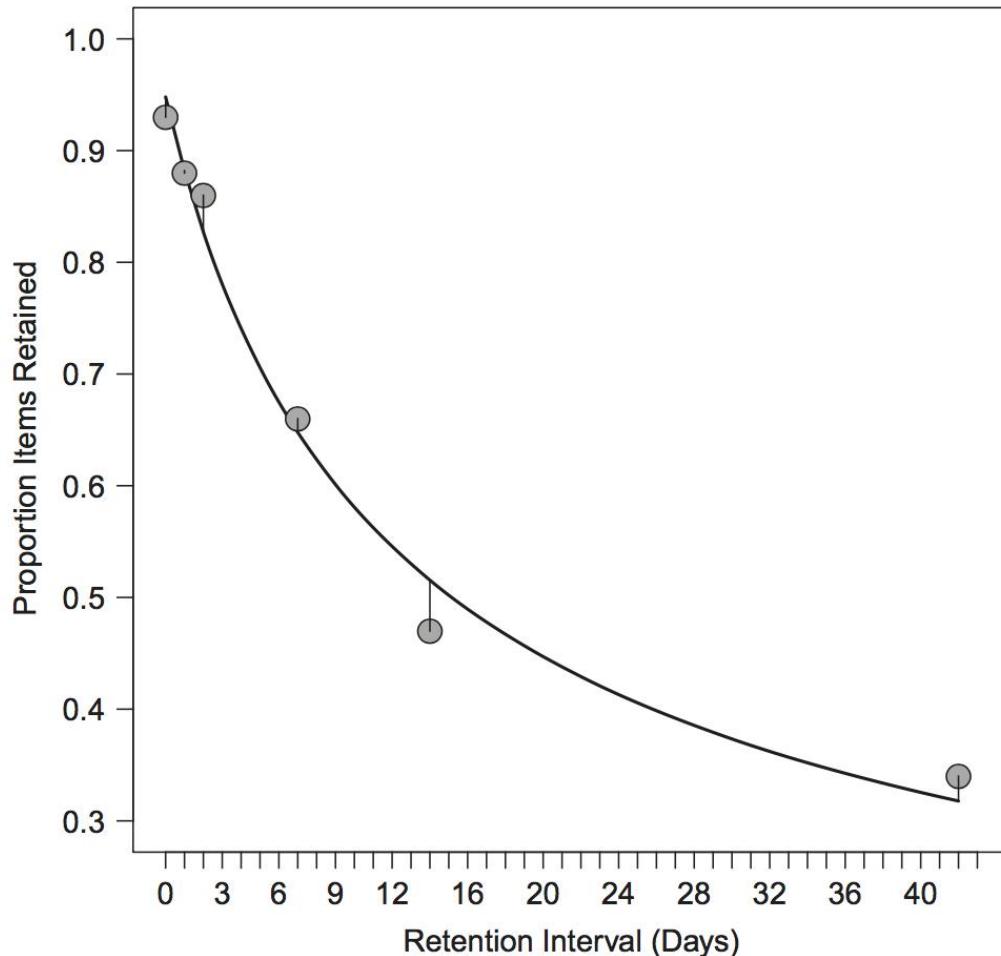
## #initialize starting values

```
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.

$$\begin{aligned}a &= 0.95 \\b &= 0.13 \\c &= 0.58\end{aligned}$$

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))))
```

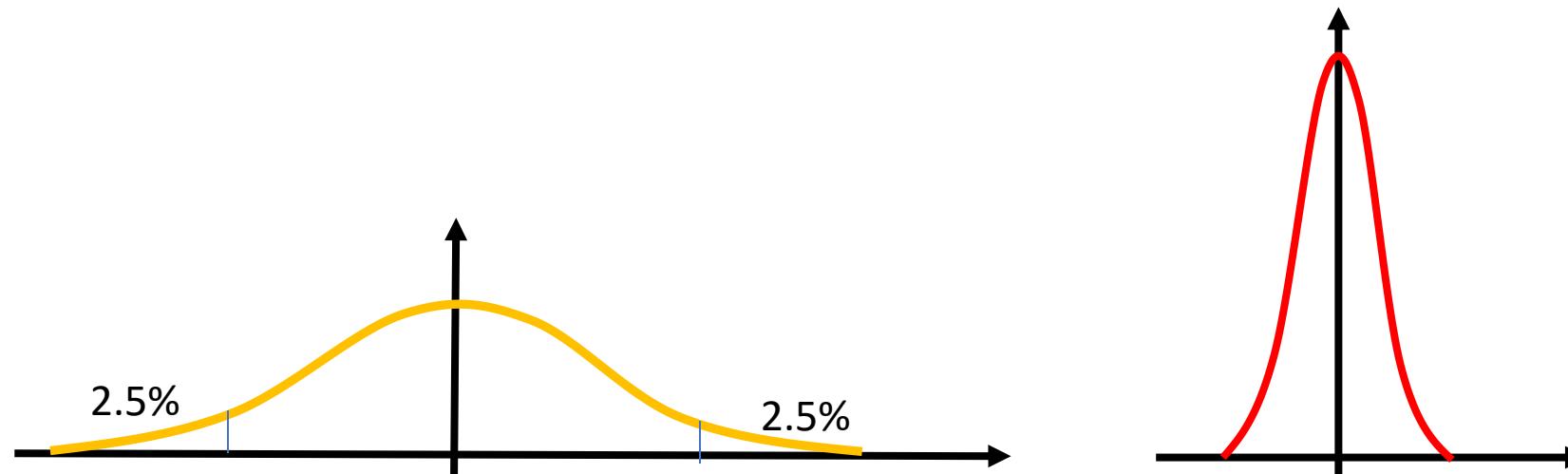
# Variability in Parameter Estimates

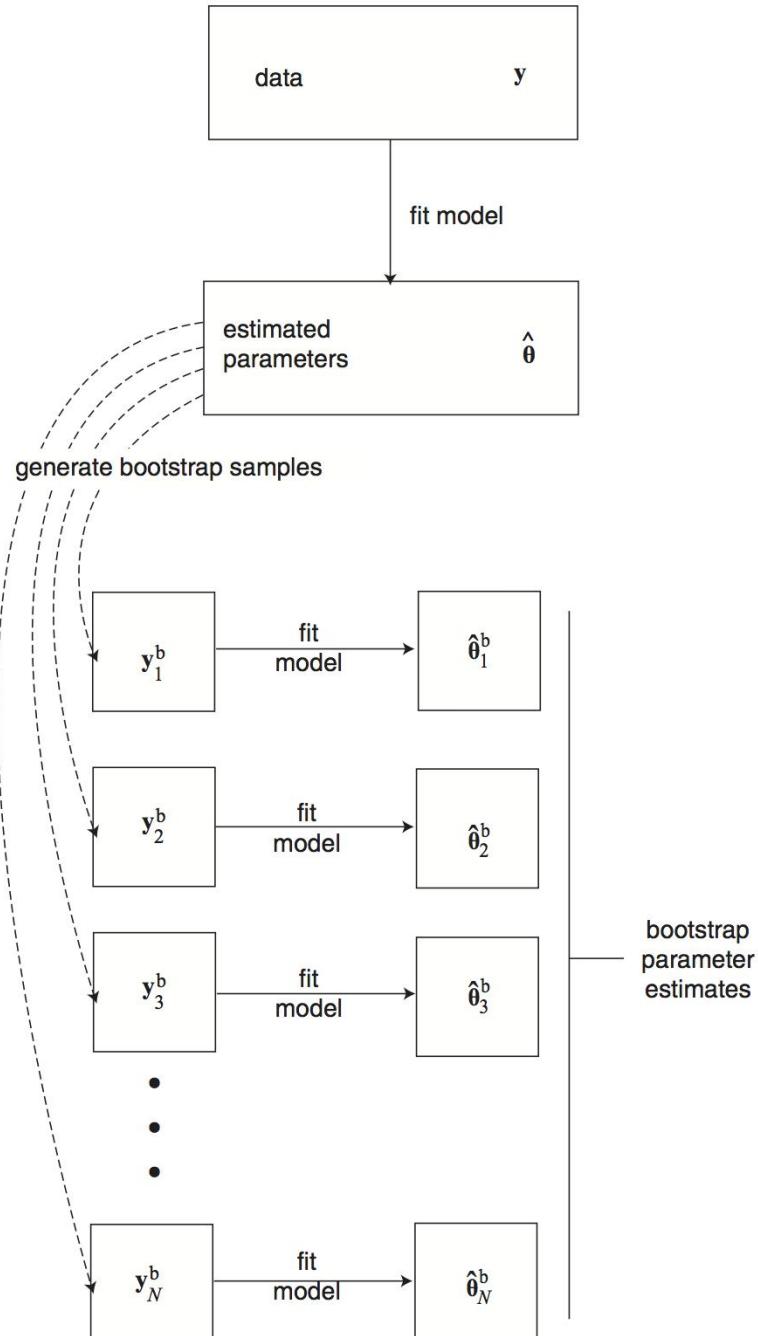
The *parameter estimation techniques* have shown so far provide a *best estimate* of the parameter values. But they are **point estimates**.

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.

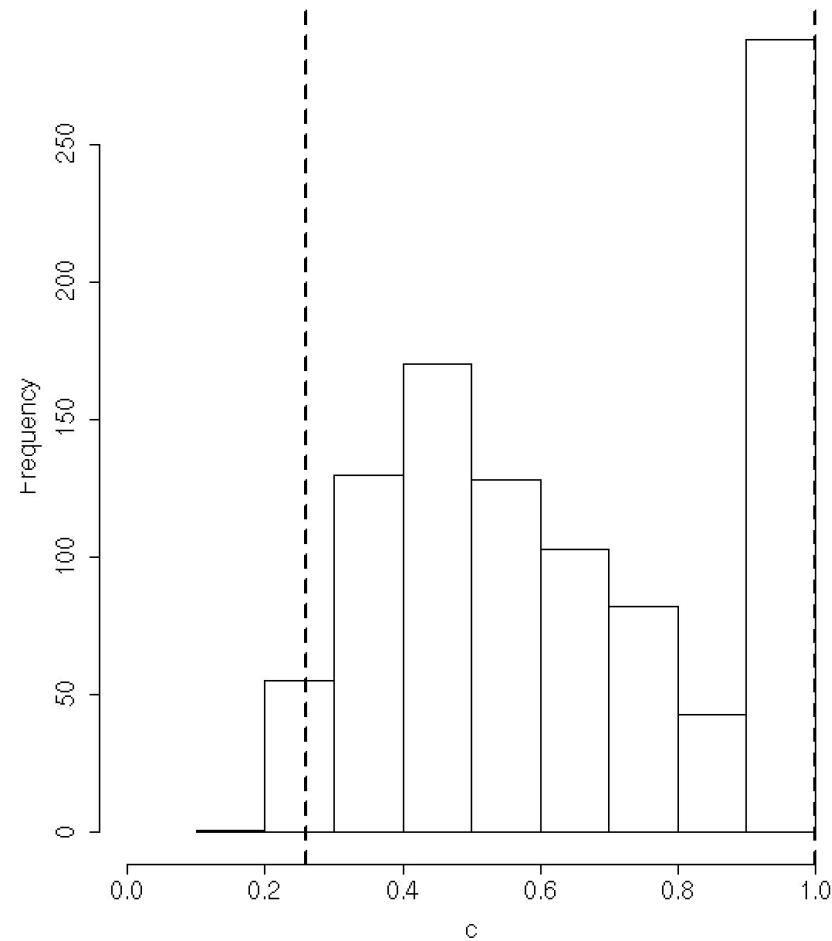
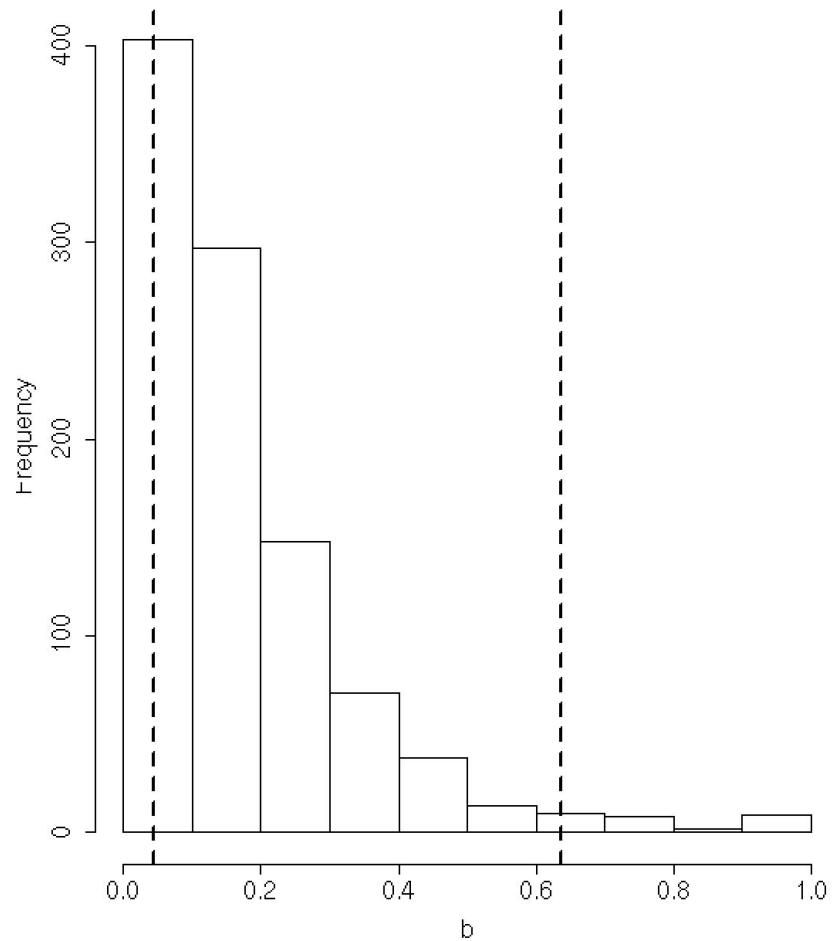
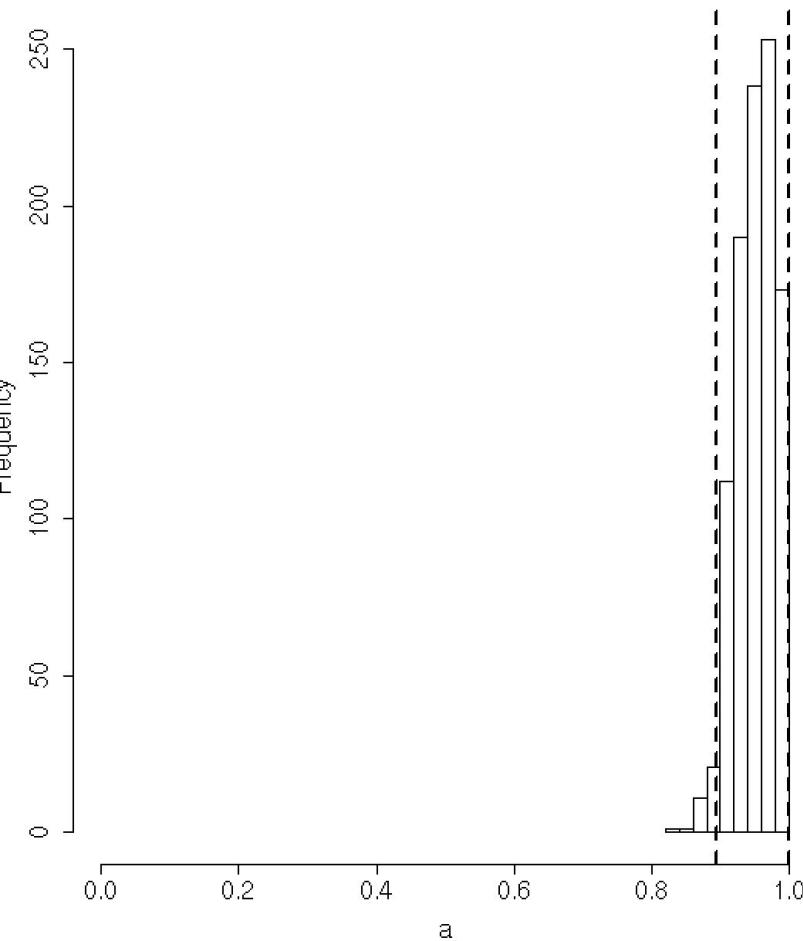
(Each generated sample should contain  $N$  data points, where  $N$  is the number of data points in the original sample.)

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.

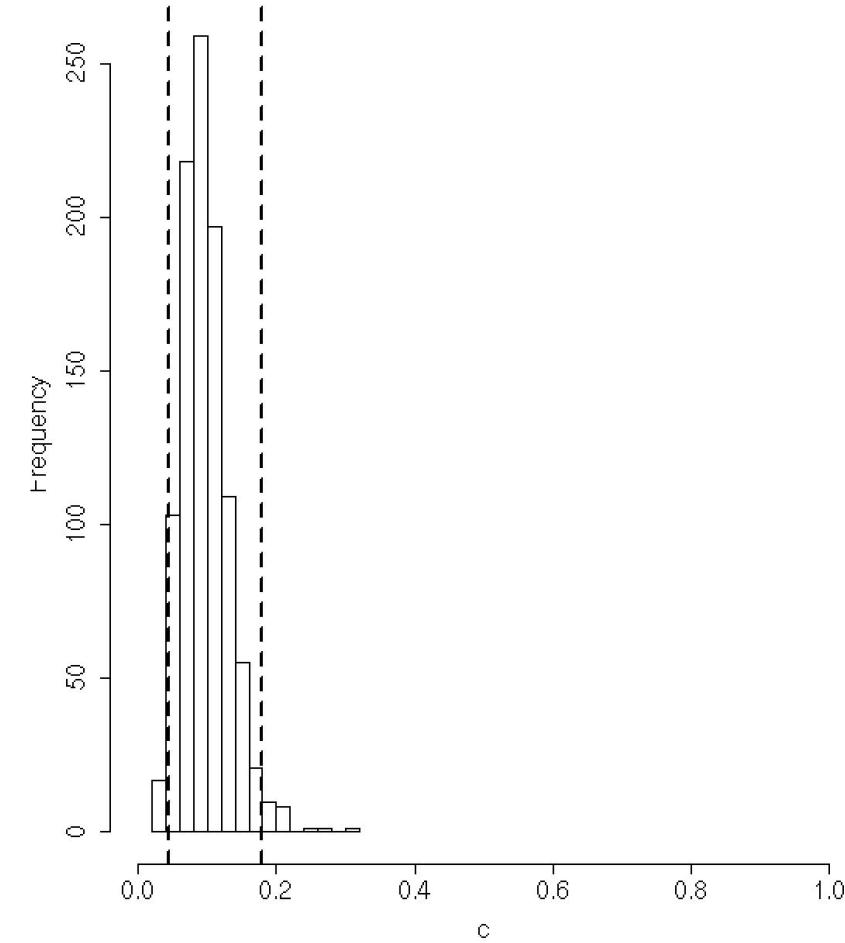
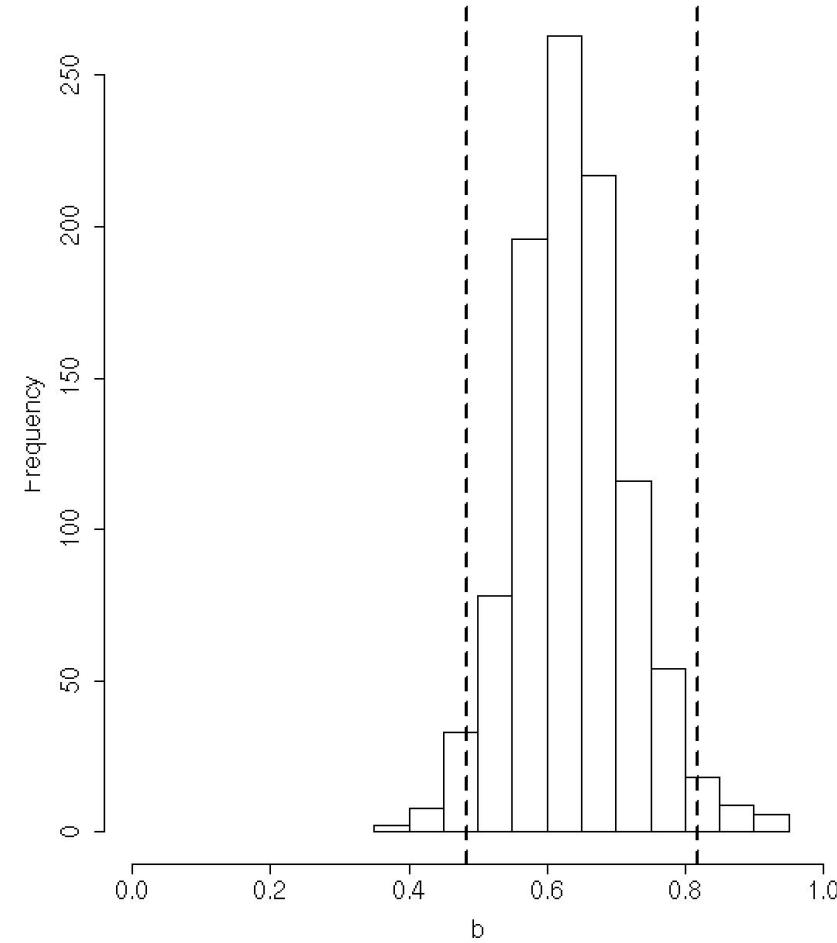
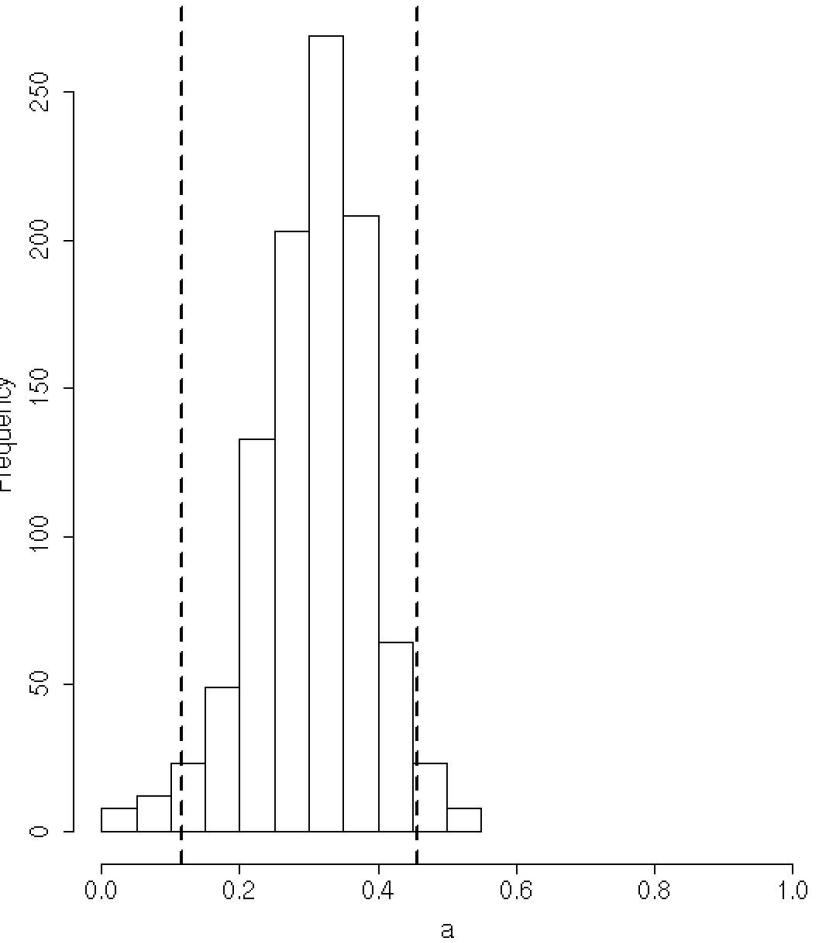
# Bootstrapping results – power model

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



# Bootstrapping results – exponential model

$$p = a + b e^{-ct}$$



# Summary of Lecture 4

- Linear regression
- Discrepancy Function
  - Continuous data: Root Mean Squared Deviation (RMSD)
  - Discrete data: Chi-Squared ( $\chi^2$ )
- 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>

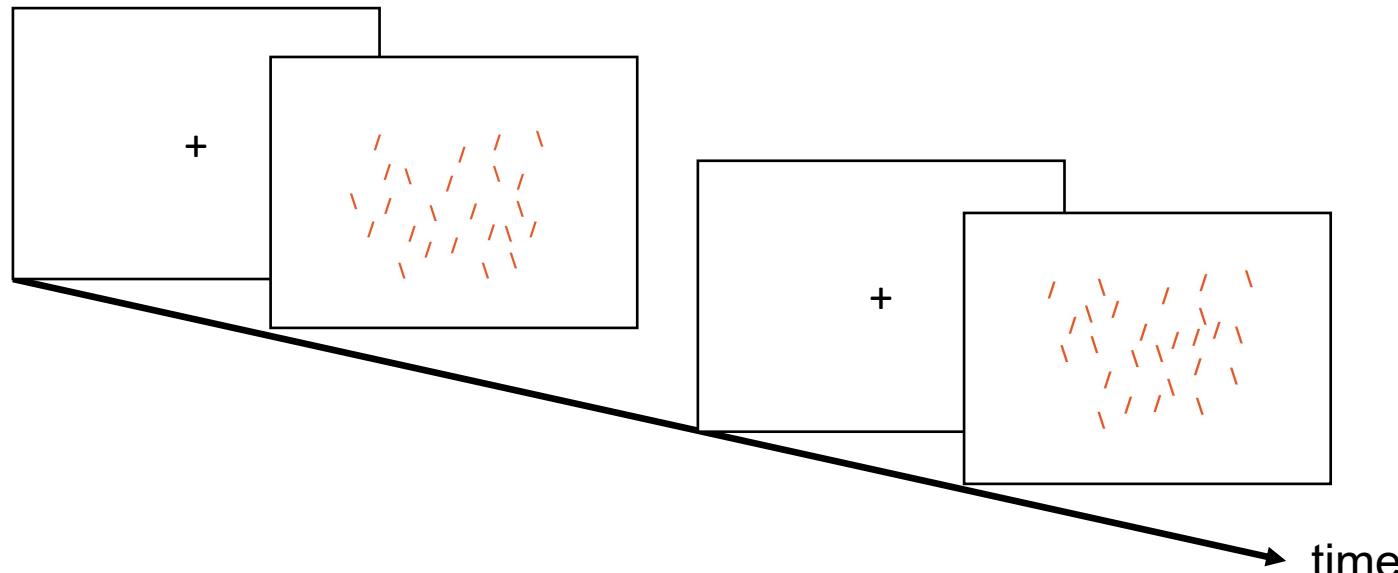
Implement the task with Python (可以用PyGame)

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