The *lrd* Package: An *R* Package and Shiny Application for Processing Lexical Data

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Abstract

Recall testing is a common assessment to gauge memory retrieval. Responses from these tests can be analyzed in several ways; however, the output generated in a recall study typically requires manual coding that can be time intensive and error-prone before any analyses can be conducted. To address this issue, this article introduces *lrd* (Lexical Response Data), a set of open-source tools for quickly and accurately processing lexical response data that can be used either from the *R* command line or through an *R Shiny* graphical user interface. First, we provide an overview of this package and include a step-by-step user guide for processing both cued and free-recall responses. For validation of *lrd,* we used *lrd* to recode output from both cued and free-recall studies with large samples and examined whether the results replicated using *lrd* scored data. We then assessed the inter-rater reliability and sensitivity and specificity of the scoring algorithm relative to human-coded data. Overall, *lrd* is highly reliable and shows excellent sensitivity and specificity, indicating that recall data processed using this package are remarkably consistent with data processed by a human coder.

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The lrd Package: An R Package and Shiny Application for Processing Cued-Recall Data

People are generally able to acquire new knowledge with relative ease. Much of our understanding of how individuals organize and store learned information comes from the use of recall tests (see Polyn, Norman, & Kahana, 2009, a review). These procedures present participants with a set of items to learn within a controlled environment, and participants are asked to recall them on a later test. Recall can either be assessed via free report, in which individuals report information from memory with few, if any, cues or constraints (free-recall), or by the presentation of a cue that is used to direct their retrieval (cued-recall). Recall tests are routine in memory research, including studies investigating the effectiveness of different memory strategies (e.g., deep vs. shallow encoding tasks; Craik & Lockhart, 1972), survival processing (e.g., assessing memory for contaminated objects; Gretz & Huff, 2019), and metacognition (e.g., accuracy between judgments of learning and recall; Koriat & Bjork, 2005). Furthermore, because studies often employ words as stimuli (i.e., cue-target pairs), a large body of research has been conducted to explore how the lexical properties of the cue and target can influence later recall (e.g., concreteness, Pavio, Clark, & Khan, 1988; word frequency, Criss, Aue, & Smith, 2011) or how the semantic relationships between pairs affect recall (Maxwell & Buchanan, 2020). Though the research questions differ, recall studies generally employ lexical information in some capacity, either as the stimuli that participants are required to study, the dependent variable of interest, or more commonly, through a combination of the two.

Cued-recall testing is a well-known paradigm and has been used extensively in psychological research. A cursory search of Google Scholar for the keyword “cued-recall” yields approximately 18,000 publications since 2000, with these results spanning multiple subfields of psychology including neuroscience, psycholinguistics, and cognitive aging. Additionally, the rise of the internet combined the availability of more powerful computers has made it easier for researchers conduct cued-recall testing by providing access to platforms for participant recruitment and computer-based testing. Furthermore, in addition to aiding data collection, the internet has allowed information about lexical characteristics of stimuli (such as word length or frequency) to be more efficiently collected and organized. As a result, the past two decades have provided researchers with access to a growing number of normed databases with which to construct lexical stimuli for use within recall studies (e.g., The English Lexicon Project, Balota et al., 2007; The Semantic Priming Project, Hutchison et al., 2013; The Small World of Words Project; De Deyne, Navarro, Perfors, & Brsybaert, 2019). Recently, online tools to aid researchers in selecting stimuli from the appropriate normed database have been made available (e.g., The Linguistic Annotated Bibliography; Buchanan, Valentine, & Maxwell, 2019a) and computer applications such as the *lexOPS* package for *R* ­(Taylor, Beith, & Sereno, 2019) have been developed to automate the stimuli selection process entirely while controlling for several types word properties. Though there has been a proliferation of datasets and tools used to aid researchers with stimuli creation, little attention has been given to developing tools that assist researchers with processing the large amounts of data that are generated from these studies.

Since studies investigating memory through the use of both cued and free recall testing typically generate large amounts of lexical text data, processing the output is often a time-consuming and tedious task. Furthermore, the number of participants recruited to take part in these studies has drastically increased within the past decade, partially as a response to the replication crisis (e.g., Maxwell, Lau, & Howard, 2015), which has resulted in an even greater need for efficient methods for processing recall data. As such, the purpose of this paper is to introduce the *lrd* (lexical response data) package, which has been designed to provide researchers with a set of simple and freely accessible tools that can be used to speed up scoring of text responses from recall studies.

Output from both cued and free-recall tests are generally scored by matching participants’ responses to the various stimuli against a scoring key containing the correct set of responses. Though typed responses are unquestionably easier to process relative to handwritten responses, each response item must still be manually checked against the key to determine accuracy. For large datasets, manually scoring data is arduous, resulting in hours of checking participant responses against an answer key. While such tasks can generally be divided across research assistants in a lab, manual scoring may still prove to be a time-consuming endeavor depending on the amount of data requiring processing. Furthermore, multiple scorers can potentially introduce error in the coded responses, as inconsistencies across raters may arise if not properly controlled for (i.e., addressing participant misspellings, plural vs. singular nouns, alternate tenses, etc.) and scoring discrepancies are not resolved.

To reduce both the overall time spent processing raw output and potential coder inaccuracies, an alternative method is to automate the data coding processes by employing a computer application that can automatically compare participant responses relative to a scoring key. However, simple text matching of responses does not account for participant errors in responses, such as misspellings or embedded coding provided by the survey software (e.g., extra spaces, tabs, newlines, etc.). These items still represent a correct memory; however, more sophisticated text processing is required. While a human scorer could certainly adjust any minor character additions, omissions, or misspellings to score correctly retrieved memory items, an automated one-to-one matching program may not score correctly unless a sufficient degree of flexibility is programmed into the scoring package.

The functions comprising the *lrd* package have been specifically designed to accurately score lexical text data while granting increased flexibility for minor errors that may be present in recall output, as determined by the user. Importantly, this cost-free package has been carefully crafted to require minimal programming experience. The goal of this article is two-fold. First, we provide brief overviews of each function contained in both the *lrd* package in the *R* environment and detail the corresponding *R Shiny* application by providing step-by-step guides on how to implement each of these tools to process several types of recall data. Second, we test the accuracy and reliability of the scoring algorithm by comparing output obtained from this package with human coded data using four large data sets. Specifically, we test this package’s reliability by using its scoring functions to recode cued-recall data derived from two recent cued-recall studies (Maxwell & Buchanan, 2020; Maxwell & Huff, in press), a study employing a free-recall task (Huff, Yates, & Balota, 2018), and a study using sentence recall task (Geller, Holmes, Schwalje, Berger, Gander, Choi, & McMurray, 2020). For each study, we then compare data processed using *lrd* to the findings in the original human coded datasets and tested whether the original findings reported in these studies replicate.

For the two cued-recall studies, participants studied lists of paired associates and judged either how related the words in each pair were (Maxwell & Buchanan, 2020) or how likely they would remember the second word if cued by the first at test using a Judgment of Learning (JOL) rating (Maxwell & Huff, in press). Upon conclusion of the study/judgment tasks, participants completed a distractor task followed by a cued-recall task in which the first word in each pair was presented and participants were asked to respond with the item it was originally paired with (e.g., mouse - ?). Next, for the free-recall data derived from Huff et al. (2018), participants studied six word lists in which list items were either semantically related or unrelated. Following study of each list, participants then engaged in a free-recall task. Finally, for the sentence data taken from Geller et al. (2020), participants completed a sentence recognition task in which they were listened to a sentence and, following the conclusion of each audio presentation, were instructed to type as much of the sentence as they recalled hearing. The recall data reported in each of the above studies was initially scored by manually checking responses against a scoring key via human coders. We rescored this output using *lrd* to illustrate that output generated automatically from this package is able to replicate human scored results across both recall paradigms with a high degree of precision.

**Overview of the *lrd* Package**

*lrd* is an open-source package developed for the *R* environment that consists of three basic functions for scoring lexical recall data and assessing the output. This package’s primary goal is to automate the scoring process by matching participant responses to a list of correct responses stored in a key. Critically, this package has been designed to accomplish this task while granting flexibility towards participant response errors (e.g., misspellings or incorrect tenses). We additionally provide functions for specific analyses tied to recall data including serial position curves, conditional response probabilities, and probability of first recall (Kahana, 1996).

We begin by providing a set of general instructions for downloading and installing the *lrd* package within the *R* environment. Next, we provide a basic overview of the scoring functions for both three types of recall as well as a set of functions that can be used to compute recall proportions for each test type. Third, we provide a general guide on how to use the package within both the *R* environment and through the use of a graphical user interface (GUI) implemented in *Shiny* (Chang, Cheng, Allaire, Xie, & McPherson, 2020; RStudio Inc, 2020). Finally, we conclude by assessing the validity of this package by using the cued-recall, free recall, and sentence scoring functions to process sets of each data type that have been scored by human coders.

**Installation and Set Up**

Here we present instructions and setup for users wishing to use *lrd* within the *R* environment. Specific instructions for accessing and implementing the *Shiny* application are provided following our description of the *lrd* *R* package.

The latest version of *lrd* (including all applicable documentation and source code for each function) can be accessed via GitHub (https://github.com/npm27/lrd). While proficiency with *R* is not required to run this package, it is assumed that users will have some familiarity with the *R* environment and/or basic experience with object-oriented programming. Installation is relatively straightforward, but currently requires the use of the *devtools* package (Wickham, Hester, & Chang, 2019) to download and install the files from GitHub. Typing the following command, devtools::install\_github('npm27/lrd') will begin the installation process by downloading and installing the latest version of *lrd*. By providing this package via GitHub, researchers are able to contribute, fork (i.e., make a copy), and modify functions of this package as needed. Installation using *devtools* will always be supported, and updated installation instructions will be provided when applicable on the README for the package.

**Example: Free Recall**

To begin using *lrd*, be sure to first load the package by using library(lrd). Each function has been documented with information about the arguments and outputs stored within that function. Use ?function name to view the documentation and examples provided within the *R* working environment. Several example datasets are also provided within the package to demonstrate the three main scoring functions. In this first example, we will load a free recall dataset using data(wide\_data) and the answer key for the free recall lists with data(answer\_key\_free). The dataset is structured in wide format, such that each participant is the one row in the data frame:

> head(wide\_data)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Sub.ID | Response | Disease.Condition |
| 1 | basket, chair, clothes, flowrs, glasses, fan, windows, carpet, lamp, picture frame, remote | healthy |
| 2 | windows, bed, books, shelf, pictures | healthy |
| 3 | bacpack, chair, glasses, mirror, iphone, pillow, stereo, nightstand, computer, door, magazines, quilt | healthy |
| 4 | vase, blinds, computer, magazine, books, bed, blanket, carpet, dresser | sick |
| 5 | bed, blankets, closet, windows, books, fan | sick |
| 6 | bed, blankets, dreser, nightstand, end table, stereo, flwrs, vase | sick |

For all scoring functions, the data should be converted to long format, which includes one trial per row to properly match the answer key to the answer for each trial. In the example above, the Response column includes all the answers a participant listed using comma separated format. If the data is structured so that each concept is in a separate column, the data can be restructured into long format several ways: *reshape* (Wickham, 2007) or *data.table* (Dowle & Srinivasan, 2020) using the melt() function or *tidyverse* (Wickham et al., 2019) using the pivot\_longer()function. In *lrd*, the arrange\_data() function was added to assist in reformatting participants answers that were entered as one text string. To convert the wide\_data into a useable long format, use:

DF\_long <- arrange\_data(data = wide\_data,

responses = "Response",

sep = ",",

id = "Sub.ID")[[1]](#footnote-1)

The data argument indicates the data frame containing the variables defined in the next arguments. The column name of the responses is denoted in quotes for the responses’ argument, and the sep argument indicates the separator between responses (i.e., a comma, semicolon, space, tab, or other text delimitator). The id variable is a column name in the data frame for the unique participant ID number. Our new dataframe DF\_long will then be converted to long format:

> head(DF\_long)

Sub.ID response position Disease.Condition

1 1 basket 1 healthy

2 1 chair 2 healthy

3 1 clothes 3 healthy

4 1 flowrs 4 healthy

5 1 glasses 5 healthy

6 1 fan 6 healthy

This function first splits the original response column by the separator, strips out additional whitespaces (i.e., two or more spaces become one between tokens), and trims whitespace characters before and after the token(s). The position column is added to denote the order of responses for each participant, and the unique ID for each participant is repeated for each of their answers. The last component of this function is that all between-subjects’ columns will be added back into the restructured data frame, as long as they have a one-to-one match with the participant ID. In this example, the Disease.Condition variable is included because each participant was only assigned into one of the groups. If there are multiple trials or conditions for free responses, they should be separated into different data frames and this process repeated for each trial-answer key pairing.

The answer key is structured as a data frame with one column of information (shown below). However, the answer key can also be imported by simply typing the answers as a single vector using the concatenate function c().

> head(answer\_key\_free)

Answer\_Key

1 backpack

2 basket

3 bed

4 blanket

5 blinds

6 books

With the restructured data and answer key, the prop\_correct\_free() function can be used to score the free response data. This function will compare the answer key to the response column created above, and therefore, each trial of free responses should be analyzed separately.

scored\_output <- prop\_correct\_free(data = DF\_long,

responses = "response",

key = answer\_key\_free$Answer\_Key,

id = "Sub.ID",

cutoff = 1,

flag = TRUE,

group.by = "Disease.Condition")

The data argument should represent the long-formatted data frame with each answer as a separate row. The responses argument represents a column in the data frame associated with the concepts to be scored and note that these concepts can be multiple tokens (i.e., picture frame is one correctly recalled concept in the answer key). The key argument denotes the vector (i.e., one column) from the answer key that contains the ordered answers. The order of the answer key can be used to calculate serial position curve values, which is shown below. The id argument is our unique participant ID. Next, the cutoff argument denotes the Levenshtein edit distance allowed to score the answer as correct (Levenshtein, 1966). These distance values represent the number of character changes required to transform the first word into the second. For example, two identical words such as *cat* and *cat* would have distance of 0, while *cat* and *bat* would have a distance of 1, and *cat* and *dog* would have a distance of 3. Levenshtein distances are sensitive to changes in character order, which provides an advantage over simple character matching, as *bear* and *bare* would be computed as 100% matching, but a Levenshtein distance score of 3. In this example, we have selected a cutoff score of 1 to denote that one character change is allowed. The flag argument is a logical (TRUE/FALSE) argument that will add *z*-score information to the scored data frame. The *z*-scores represent the standardized mean distance from the group (if used), or overall participant average percent correct. These scores can be used to determine outliers, if desired. Last, the group.by argument can be used to include option column(s) to

#' head(scored\_output$DF\_Scored)

#'

#' head(scored\_output$DF\_Participant)

#'

#' head(scored\_output$DF\_Group)

Serial position curves

Pfr

crp

**Example: Cued Recall**

#' data(cued\_data)

#'

#' scored\_output <- prop\_correct\_cued(data = cued\_data,

#' responses = "response",

#' key = "key",

#' key.trial = "trial",

#' id = "id",

#' id.trial = "trial",

#' cutoff = 1,

#' flag = TRUE,

#' group.by = "condition")

#'

#' head(scored\_output$DF\_Scored)

#'

#' head(scored\_output$DF\_Participant)

#'

#' head(scored\_output$DF\_Group)

#'

**Example: Sentence Recall**

#' data(sentence\_data)

#'

#' scored\_output <- prop\_correct\_sentence(data = sentence\_data,

#' responses = "Response",

#' key = "Sentence",

#' key.trial = "Trial.ID",

#' id = "Sub.ID",

#' id.trial = "Trial.ID",

#' cutoff = 1,

#' flag = TRUE,

#' group.by = "Condition",

#' token.split = " ")

#'

#' head(scored\_output$DF\_Scored)

#'

#' head(scored\_output$DF\_Participant)

#'

#' head(scored\_output$DF\_Group)

After running score\_recall.f() the scored output is saved to a .csv stored in the working directory. This file contains four columns consisting of the participant’s id number, their responses, matching response from the answer key, and participant scores for each item. (Represented as a series of 0’s and 1’s). Table 4 shows the structure of this output file.

**Function 6: Compute Proportion of Correct Free-Recall Responses**

The next function included with *lrd* is prop.correct.f(). This function can be used to compute participant level proportions of correct responses for free recall data and is analogous to prop.correct.cr(). Three inputs are required to run prop.correct.f(). The first two inputs can be obtained from the output of score\_recall.f(). These include the output column containing participant scores and the column containing participant identifiers. Finally, using the key.length argument, the user must specify the number of objects contained in the scoring key. Mean recall scores will then be displayed for each participant, and this output can then be saved to a dataframe.

**Function 7: Compute the Percent Match Between Two Sentences**

The final function included with *lrd* is sentence\_match(). This function computes the percentage of words that are shared between two sentences. Additionally, it returns unique items within each sentence (i.e., items in sentence one that are missing in sentence two or vice versa). Similar to the previous percent match function, sentence\_match()was designed to operate on a dataframe containing participant responses and a scoring key. As such, this function requires three inputs derived from the dataframe: The column containing participant responses, the column containing the scoring key, and the column participant’s unique identifier. Finally, a percent match value for scoring needs to be specified using the cutoff argument. This function then returns a dataframe object containing the three initial input columns, the percent match between the sentences, a column denoting words omitted in the response, and a column denoting extra words in the response that are not in the scoring key.

**Cued-Recall Scoring Functions Example**

In this section, we provide a general guide to using *lrd* to score cued-recall data. This example uses a set of simulated response data that were designed to mimic output that might be obtained from a cued-recall study. While the dataset is smaller than what is typically generated from psychological experiments, we note that they are sufficient for our purpose of illustrating how *lrd* scores participant responses. We begin this section by detailing the creation of this dataset before providing a step-by-step walkthrough of the *lrd* package’s cued-recall scoring functions. Code and data for all examples have been made available at https://osf.io/admyx/.

**Materials and Dataset Creation**

To simulate a set of cued-recall data, forty words were randomly generated using *LexOPS* (Taylor et al., 2019) to serve as target items (i.e., the scoring key containing correct responses). To simplify the stimuli selection process, we followed the general example provided by Taylor et al. by controlling for word prevalence and concreteness when generating this set of items. First, only highly concrete words were included (concreteness ≥ 4; Brysbaert, Warriner, & Kuperman, 2014). Pairs were then evenly split based on word prevalence (e.g., the proportion of individuals who are familiar with a word; Brysbaert, Mandera, McCormick & Keuleers, 2019). Thus, the final stimuli consisted of 20 concrete, high prevalence words (i.e., prevalence ≥ 4) and 20 concrete, low prevalence words (i.e., prevalence ≤ 2).

We next simulated six sets of participant responses to these items. These response simulations varied in their degree of accuracy to cover a broad spectrum of potential participant responses, including no response errors (Participant 1), minor misspellings (Participants 2, 3, and 4), and major response errors (e.g., blank responses, incorrect answers, misspellings of more than two letters; Participants 5 and 6). For Participant 1, all responses matched the key to simulate a situation in which a participant correctly recalls all items. Data for Participants 2 and 3 was manipulated to simulate situations in which participants make minor mistakes at recall that don’t necessarily preclude their responses from being counted as correct (e.g., misspellings where it is evident what the intended word is). These were generated by removing, replacing, or doubling specific letters. As such, the letter “e” was removed from all responses for subject 2 (e.g., “hey” becomes “hy”). For Participant 3, all instances of the letter “t” were doubled (e.g., “edit” becomes “editt”). Next, for Participant 4, all instances of the letter “a” were replaced with an “e”. This allowed us to simulate a range of common participant errors such as omitting a letter, typing the wrong letter, or double pressing a key by mistake. Finally, data for Participants 5 and 6 were manipulated to simulate situations in which participants make major mistakes on recall (e.g., responding with an incorrect word). To simulate this type of response error for Participant 5, five responses from the answer key were randomly changed to a different but conceptually similar word (e.g., *financial* becomes *money*). The simulated data for Participant 6 increased the number of incorrect responses and added three instances of missing data.

**Formatting and Loading the Dataset**

When processing cued-recall data, the *lrd* package requires that the initial input data is formatted as .csv with a header row. This file will need to be arranged in long format and must contain the following columns: A unique identifier for each participant, a participant response column, and a unique identifier for each tested item (e.g., such as a trial number). Additionally, this function requires an answer key containing the correct responses and a unique identifier for each key item; however, these columns can either be stored as part of the input data or may be stored in a separate .csv file of the same length as the file containing participant response. Finally, the upload file may contain additional columns (e.g., columns denoting experimental conditions) that can be used to group the output. Because scoring is case sensitive, the response and answer key columns will need to be checked for case discrepancies. For simplicity, we suggest converting both the answer key and response columns to lowercase before scoring the data. Finally, any missing responses will need to be converted from NAs to blanks.

[R CODE]

##set up

library(lrd)

##load test data

dat = read.csv("test\_data.csv")

##make sure everything is lowercase

dat$Target = tolower(dat$Target)

dat$Answer = tolower(dat$Answer)

##replace NAs with blanks

dat$Answer[is.na(dat$Answer)] = ""

**Scoring Cued-Recall Data**

Scoring cued-recall data with *lrd* is a relatively straightforward process. To begin, run prop\_correct\_cued()and save the output as a new object (see code below for an example). When running this function, you will need to specify the columns containing the participant responses, the answer key, and the subject number. You will then need to specify the Levenshtein distance used for scoring (for this example, we used a cutoff value of 1). To illustrate how changes in the percent match cutoff value influence final scores for various types of participant errors, Table 5 displays a subset of the scored output (one word per participant) at each cutoff value (the full output file generated from this example has been made available on our OSF page). This function provides up to three sets of output, which can then be saved a list object. Outputs can then be accessed using the $ operator (see example code). First, this function provides trial level data showing participant responses to each test item, the corresponding answer key item, and whether the program scored the response as correct (denoted as 1 for correct, 0 for incorrect). Next, this function provides correct recall proportions at the participant level, along with corresponding *z*-scores. Finally, if a grouping condition is selected at scoring, recall proportions collapsed across grouping condition can be accessed.

[R CODE]

scored\_cued = prop\_correct\_cued(dat,

responses = "Answer",

id = "Sub.ID",

id.trial = "Trial\_num",

key = "Target",

key.trial = "Trial\_num",

cutoff = 1)

#View the output

View(scored\_cued$DF\_Scored) #Trial level

View(scored\_cued$DF\_Participant) #Participant proportion correct

**Free-Recall Scoring Functions Example**

The next section provides a general guide for using *lrd* to score free-recall data. For this example, we simulated a set of free-recall responses. The sample data was modeled after output obtained by Gretz & Huff (2019) in which participants watched videos of either healthy or sick individuals interacting with a variety of household objects and were presented with a free recall test. First, we by detail the creation of this dataset. We then provide a detailed walkthrough of the *lrd* package’s free-recall scoring function.

**Materials and Dataset Creation**

To simulate a set of free recall data, a list of 22 common household objects was first generated. This list was based on the “bedroom” list used by Gretz and Huff (2019) and can be viewed at https://osf.io/qbrgm/. Next, to simulate a set of responses, data was generated for six participants. To capture response variability, we varied the number of responses each participant provided, spelling errors of correct items, and inclusion of incorrect items. The full sample dataset and answer key files as well as all code used in the following examples has been made available at https://osf.io/admyx/.

**Formatting and Loading the Dataset**

To process free-recall data with *lrd*, two separate upload files are required: The participant response data and the scoring key. Both files will need to be formatted as .csv and contain a header row. For the scoring key, this can be structured as a one column .csv file in which each row contains a correct response. The .csv file containing participant responses will need to be structured using a similar format as the required by the cued-recall functions and include participant identifiers and responses. Furthermore, this file will need to be arranged in long format such that each participant response corresponds to a row in the data. However, because free-recall data is not generally structured in this format, the arrange\_data() function can be used to correctly structure the output for situations in which participant responses are contained within the same dataframe cell.

[R CODE]

# Arrange Free Recall for Scoring

dat = read.csv("free\_example\_data.csv") #Load dataset

arranged = arrange\_data(dat,

responses = "Response", id = "Sub.ID", sep = ", ")

This code returns a dataframe that contains at least three columns: The participant identifier, participant responses, and a position column denoting the order in which a word was recalled. Additionally, any extra columns (such as those denoting experimental conditions) are included following the third column. As with cued-recall scoring, the free-recall functions are case sensitive and cannot process missing responses. As such, we again recommend converting both the answer key and response columns to lowercase before scoring the data and replacing all missing responses (NAs) with blanks.

**Scoring Free-Recall Data**

After correctly formatting the participant responses, the data is now ready to be scored. Free-recall data is scored using the prop\_correct\_free() function. The scored output can be saved as a new object (see the example code below). To run this function, you will need to specify the columns in the response data that contain the participant responses and the subject number. You will also need to specific the answer key used for scoring. Finally, you will need to specify the cutoff value to use for scoring. As with cued-recall scoring, the cutoff denotes the Levenshtein distance score used to match the participant response to the scoring key. For this example, we use a cutoff value of 1. The output from prop\_correct\_free()is structured in the same manner as the cued-recall output. Thus, this function provides trial level data showing participant responses to each test item, correct recall proportions at the participant level, and (if specified) recall proportions collapsed across grouping condition can be accessed. To illustrate both how the output file is structured and how changes in scoring criteria can affect accuracy, Table 4 displays a subset of the scored output (participant 1) at matches of 0, 1, and 2 (see our OSF page for the full output file).

[R CODE]

####Score the data####

key = read.csv("free\_example\_key.csv") ##Load the key

scored\_free = prop\_correct\_free(arranged,

responses = "Response",

key = key$Answer\_Key,

id = "Sub.ID",

cutoff = 1)

#View the output

View(scored\_free$DF\_Scored) #Trial level

View(scored\_free$DF\_Participant) #Participant proportion correct

**Sentence Scoring Function Example**

In addition to scoring cued-recall and free-recall responses, *lrd* can also be used to score the match between sentences. In this section, we provide a general overview of using *lrd* to score sentences. This example uses a set of simulated sentence responses generated for six participants. We begin this section by detailing the creation of this dataset. We then provide a detailed walkthrough of the *lrd* package’s sentence processing functionality.

**Materials and Dataset Creation**

To simulate a set of sentence responses, we first generated a list of five simple sentences to serve as the answer key. Next, to simulate a set of responses, sample data was generated for six participants, leading to a total of 30 observations. To capture response variability, we varied the amount of error within each response, such that some sentences included spelling error, inclusion of extra words, omission of words, and/or semantically similar words. The full sample dataset and all code used in the following example has been made available at https://osf.io/admyx/.

**Formatting and Loading the Dataset**

When using *lrd* to process sentence responses, the input data will need to be structured as a long-format .csv file containing the following columns: A unique identifier for each participant, a participant response column containing the full sentence typed by the participant, and a unique trial number for each response. Furthermore, prop.correct.sentence() requires an answer key containing the full, correct sentence and a unique identifier for each key item. As with cued-recall scoring, these columns can either be stored as part of the input data or can be uploaded as a separate .csv file of the same length as the file containing participant response. Finally, the upload file may contain additional columns (e.g., columns denoting experimental conditions) that can be used to group the output. Sentence scoring is case sensitive, so the response and answer key columns will need to be checked for case discrepancies prior to scoring. Finally, any missing sentence responses will need to be converted from NA to blanks.

[R CODE]

##set up

library(lrd)

##load test data

dat = read.csv("sentences.csv")

##make sure everything is lowercase

dat$Sentence = tolower(dat$Sentence)

dat$Response = tolower(dat$Response)

##replace NAs with blanks

dat$Response[is.na(dat$Response)] = ""

**Scoring Sentence Data**

To score sentence data with *lrd*, begin by running prop\_correct\_sentence()and save the output as a new object. This function follows the same general format as the cued and free-recall scoring functions. As such, you will need to specify the columns containing the participant responses, the answer key, and the subject number. You will then need to specify the Levenshtein distance used for scoring (for this example, we used a cutoff value of 1). Finally, the token.split argument can be used to specify the character that separates words in each sentence (note that is argument defaults to a single blank space between words). This function provides up to three sets of output, which can then be saved a list object. As with the previous scoring function, up to three sets of scored output are available and can be accessed using the $ operator (see example code).

[R CODE]

####Score the data####

scored\_sentences = prop\_correct\_sentences(dat,

responses = "Response",

key = "Sentence",

key.trial = "Trial.ID",

id = "Sub.ID",

id.trial = "Trial.ID"

token.split = " ",

group.by = "Condition"

cutoff = 1)

#View the output

scored\_sentences$DF\_Scored ##Trial level data

scored\_sentences$DF\_Participant ##Participant level

scored\_sentences$DF\_Group ##Group level

**R Shiny Application**

While *lrd* was initially designed as a package to be used within the *R* command environment, we recognized the need for an easy to access option that can be used independent of *R*. As such, we have also developed a pair of *Shiny* applications that provide researchers with a programming-free alternative to using this tool that can be operated using basic Excel skills. Furthermore, because this application is web based (available at https://npm27.shinyapps.io/lrdshiny), no software downloads are required.

The *lrd* *Shiny* application is structured as a series of tabs. Upon opening the application, you will be directed to the Information Tab (see Figure XX). From here, the menu on the left can be used to navigate to the appropriate scoring task. Selecting a task will open a new tab in which the data and answer key can be uploaded and scoring cutoff value selected. For all scoring tasks, data will need to be structured in long-format (i.e., each participant observation constitutes one row in the dataset). The Arrange Data tab can be used prior to scoring to first convert wide-format data into the appropriate format. Additionally, each of the three scoring tabs provides options for downloading scored output for use in *R*, SPSS, Excel, or other analyses programs. In the following sections, we provide detailed explanations for each of the three scoring tabs.

**Cued-Recall Tab**

When using the *Shiny* application to score cued-recall data, the uploaded dataset needs to be arranged in long format and must contain the following columns: A unique participant identifier, participant responses, trial number for each recall trial. Additionally, cued-recall scoring requires an answer key and trial a unique identifier for each key item (such as a trial number). These can either be uploaded together as a separate answer key file or these columns can be included as part of the original upload file. Finally, the dataset being scored may contain other columns (e.g., such as those denoting experimental conditions, demographics, etc.), which can be selected using the “group by” option. Figure XX displays the cued-recall tab following data upload.

After uploading both the dataset and answer key, the next step is to select the cutoff value used for scoring. Consistent with the *R* package, this number denotes the Levenshtein distance between the participant response and key item and represents the total number of insertions, deletions, and substitutions one might need to convert the given response to the answer key. Therefore, a selection of 1 represents a one letter difference between the response item and the key, while a selection 5 represents 5 changes. Finally, checking the box below the scoring cutoff instructs *lrd* to flag any outliers when computing recall proportions (defined as any recall proportions that are 3 standard deviations above or below the mean).

Once the appropriate settings have been selected, clicking “Score Your Data” will begin the scoring process. Scored output will then be displayed in the “Scored Output” panel located below the data upload panel. This panel provides a preview of the scored dataset to ensure that all columns imported correctly. Next, the “Summarized Output” panel displays correct recall proportions for at the participant level. Outliers will be flagged if this option for this was selected during set up. If a grouping variable was selected, recall proportions at the group level will also be displayed. Finally, the bottom panel displays recall proportions plotted as a function of the grouping variable. If no grouping variable is selected, this panel will display a histogram of recall proportion.

**Free-Recall Tab**

As with cued-recall scoring, free-recall data will also need to be uploaded in long-format. For simplicity, we suggest uploading the response data and answer key as two separate files. First, the participant response data will need to contain at minimum the responses and a unique participant identifier. Next, the answer key file should contain only one column (consisting of the key items). Any grouping variables should be attached to the first upload file containing the participant responses.Free recall data is then scored using the same general procedure as cued-recall. To begin, the scoring cutoff will need to be selected and along with the option to flag outliers. If the upload data contains a column denoting the order in which items were recalled, this column can be selected using the “position answered” box and will be used for creating serial position curves. Note that this column is automatically generated if the Arrange Data tab is used to convert the upload data from wide to long format. Figure XX shows the free-recall tab following data upload.

The scored dataset is then previewed in the “Scored Output” panel. Additional panels show item and group level proportions of correct recall and plots showing recall proportions as a function of grouping variable (if selected) or a histogram of participant level responses. Finally, serial position curves, probability of first response plots, and conditional probability curves are displayed in the final three panels.

**Sentence Recall Tab**

When scoring sentence recall, data upload closely follows the process used when scoring cued-recall data. The data will need to be arranged in long format such that each row corresponds to one participant response. Moreover, the response column should be structured such that each cell contains the full participant response (i.e., each cell in the response column contains a full sentence). Example data illustrating the format for the upload data is available [OSF LINK]. Finally, this data will need to contain all of the required columns from the cued-recall tab. The answer key can either be included as a column with the upload data or it can be uploaded as a separate file.

When scoring sentence data, in addition to selecting the cutoff criteria, you will need to select the delimiter for sentence tokens (i.e., the character(s) separating each word within the sentences). This can be selected using the box below the scoring cutoff selection. Note that this argument defaults to a single space. If a different character separates words, you will need to delete this space before typing a different character. Figure XX illustrates the Sentence Recall Tab following data upload.

After scoring, the “Scored Output” panel can be used to preview the final dataset. In addition to showing whether the sentence was correctly recalled, this panel will also return any tokens omitted from the answer key and any extra words included in the response. Next, the “Summarized Output” panel displays participant level and group level (if specified) recall proportions. Finally, plots can be viewed via the graph panel located at the bottom of this tab.

**Validation of Scoring Functions**

We now turn to set of analyses designed to the validity of the *lrd* package’s scoring functions by using *lrd* to score cued-recall, free-recall, and sentence recall datasets and comparing the output to human coded data. For each recall type, we conducted three sets of analyses to test the reliability of this package. Each analysis served as an additional assessment to ensure that *lrd* can consistently produce accurate scoring across different sets of stimuli. First, we tested whether the results of these studies would significantly differ from the original findings after the raw data was processed and scored using *lrd*, allowing us to test the accuracy of this package at the participant level. We then computed Cohen’s *κ* to assess reliability between the different coding sources. We begin this section by testing *lrd*’s ability to score cued-recall data. Subsequent sections then test scoring of free-recall and sentence recall.

**Cued-Recall Scoring Functions Validation**

In this section, we report results from two sets of analyses in which we tested the cued-recall scoring accuracy of *lrd*. First, we use *lrd* to score the datasets used for each set of analyses. These data were derived from two sources: Maxwell and Buchanan (2020) and Maxwell and Huff (in press).

We begin by providing details for each dataset, including participant and stimuli characteristics for each study. We then discuss the selection criteria for the percent match value and detail the results of a set of sensitivity and specificity analyses that were used to test potential cutoff values and provide a step-by-step walkthrough of the scoring process. Finally, we conclude this section by detailing each of the analyses described above.

**Participants and Materials**

Each dataset was collected separately across two different experimental settings. The first set of participants was originally reported in Maxwell and Buchanan (2020; dataset available at https://osf.io/y8h7v/). This dataset consists of 222 participants who were recruited online via Amazon’s Mechanical Turk, a site which allows researchers to access a large pool of participants who complete surveys in exchange for small sums of money (Buhrmester, Kwang, & Gosling, 2011). Next, Maxwell and Huff’s (in press) data consists of 112 undergraduate students who were recruited from The University of Southern Mississippi’s psychology research pool and tested in lab (dataset available at https://osf.io/hvdma/). These participants completed the study in exchange for partial course credit and were recruited to take part in one of four experiments. For purposes of this paper, we collapsed across experiment to include all 112 subjects in one dataset. Combining datasets across both studies resulted in 31,301 recall entries generated from 334 participants.

Datasets were selected due to their similarity in design. Each study presented participants with paired associate study lists and later had them complete cued-recall tasks. Furthermore, each study contained reasonably sized samples (all *n*s > 90) and presented participants with at least 60 item pairs to study, providing us with a sufficient number of observations with which to test the reliability of this package. Each study presented participants with a set of cue-target paired associates (e.g., credit – card). Participants were asked to study each pair before making a judgment of either the pair’s relatedness or their ability to recall the pair at test. After completing the study and judgment tasks, participants then complete a cued-recall test. While participant judgments were collected in each experiment, they are not included in the following analyses as we are only interested in analyzing the accuracy of *lrd* in scoring recall responses.

First, Maxwell and Buchanan (2020) used 63-word pairs that were selected using the Buchanan et al. (2013) semantic feature overlap norms. The stimuli pairs used in this study were selected based on the strength of their semantic relatedness as measured by cosine overlap (See Buchanan, Valentine, and Maxwell (2019b) for a review of cosine overlap) while also controlling for association strength and thematic similarity. Next, the Maxwell and Huff (in press) dataset used 180 study pairs selected from the University of South Florida Free Association norms (USF norms, Nelson, McEvoy, & Schreiber, 2004). Stimuli pairs used in this study were originally selected based on their levels of forward associative strength (FAS) and backward associative strength (BAS).

Each of these studies assessed participant recall using the same method. After conclusion of the study tasks, participants completed a cued-recall test in which the first item of each study pair was presented with the second item removed (e.g., *mouse - ?*). Participants in each study were informed that they would not be penalized for guessing or incorrect spellings of answers.

**Data Processing and Scoring**

To assess the reliability of the cued-recall scoring functions, we first used *lrd* to process and score the two cued-recall datasets introduced above. We then compared output obtained through this scoring process to the original, manually coded output that was originally reported in these studies and tested whether the original findings would replicate.

Prior to running the scoring algorithm, .csv files containing participant responses, answer key, trial numbers, and unique identifiers for each participant were created for each of datasets. Data from each study were then scored using the prop\_correct\_cued() function. Scoring was an iterative process which used each of the six Levenshtein. Thus, each dataset was scored six times (once for each scoring criterion). This allowed us to track how changing the Levenshtein distance affected scoring accuracy.

**Determining the Optimal Scoring Criterion**

Given the *lrd* package’s scoring functions work by computing the Levenshtein distance between two strings (i.e., the number of character insertions, deletions, or changes required to transform string A into string B), we first needed to determine the optimal distance score that would maximize the number of correct hits (e.g., true positives) while simultaneously minimizing the number of false positives and false negatives. To this end, we conducted a set of sensitivity and specificity analyses for each dataset (see Altman & Bland, 1994, for a review) comparing each level of *lrd* scored data to the original, human coded data. Within the context of this study, sensitivity refers to the proportion of true positives that *lrd* correctly identifies (i.e., a participant correctly responds to the cue item with the correct target word and the program correctly identifies it), while specificity refers to the proportion of true negatives identified by the program (i.e., the program correctly identifies that a participant missed an item at test).

Sensitivity and specificity analyses were computed in *R* using the *caret* package (Kuhn, 2008). Tables 6 and 7 report sensitivity and specificity percentages for each dataset computed across of the five Levenshtein distance cutoff values. Overall, both datasets displayed a consistent pattern of results: Sensitivity and specificity were each maximized when the scoring cutoff used a Levenshtein distance of 1, suggesting that this value allowed the scoring algorithm to achieve maximum accuracy. We therefore suggest that a Levenshtein distance of 1 provides the optimal cutoff value for minimizing false positives and negatives; however, the program allows researchers to increase or decrease the cutoff value as desired.

**Analyses and Results**

After determining the optimal range of cutoff values to use with the scoring functions, we now turn to a set of analyses that test whether data scored using *lrd* can successfully reproduce the results from each of the original, manually scored datasets. We begin this section by providing descriptive statistics of recall rates for both the original and rescored datasets and then test whether these recall rates differ as a function of coder. Finally, we compute the inter-rater reliability between the human coded and *lrd* scored data. Each dataset was analyzed individually, providing us with two separate tests of the *lrd* package’s scoring accuracy. Generalized-eta squared (*η*2G) and Cohen’s *d* eﬀect sizes are reported for signiﬁcant analyses of variance (ANOVAs) and *t*-tests, respectively. For all analyses, significance was set at the *p* < .05 level.

**Replication of Cued-Recall Studies**

To test whether cued-recall data scored using *lrd* could successfully replicate human coded data, we conducted two one-way Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) models which tested whether recall cued-rates differed between the 7 scoring types (the 6 *lrd* scoring criteria ranging from 0-5 plus the human coded data). For completeness, means, 95% CI’s, and Cohen’s *d* effect size indices for all comparisons are reported in Tables 8 and 9.

Starting with the Maxwell and Buchanan (2020) dataset, a significant effect of scoring type was detected between the human coded data or the *lrd* scored data at any of the percent match cutoff values, *F*(6, 1320) = 558.12, *MSE* = 3115.42, *η*2G = .26. However, post-hoc analyses indicated that this effect was largely driven by differences between the higher Levenshtein distances (i.e., scored using a cutoff of 3 or greater) and the human coded data such that data (*t*s ≥ 3.19, *d*s ≥ 0.29). Recall rates from the *lrd* scored data did not significantly differ from the human coded data (54.14) when *lrd* scoring used a Levenshtein distance of 0 (50.23), 1 (52.14), or 2 (53.37; *t*s ≤ 1.23, *p*s ≥ .21).

Next, for the Maxwell and Huff (2020) dataset, a significant effect of scoring type was also detected, *F*(6, 666) = 1433.93, *MSE* = 14.82, *η*2G = .53. Post-hoc analyses again showed that this effect was largely driven by differences in mean recall between the human coded data (43.96) data that was scored with *lrd* using a Levenshtein distance cutoff of 3 or greater, *t*s ≥ 3.86, *d*s ≥ 0.52. Recall rates did not differ between the human coded data and any of the other *lrd* cutoff points, *t*s ≤ 1.60, *p*s ≥ .11. Thus, using *lrd* to score participant responses did not result in significant changes in outcome across any of the experiments, particularly when an optimized scoring criterion as based on the sensitivity and specificity analyses was used. As such, these findings suggest that *lrd* is able to code cued-recall data equivalently to human coders.

**Inter-Rater Reliability**

To test the inter-rater reliability between the original data and the rescored data, we computed *κ* values for all data sets at the individual trial level. These values were computed in *R* using the *psych* package (Revelle, 2019). The *κ* statistic ranges from -1 to 1, and inter-rater reliability is considered strong if *κ* exceeded .80 (Cohen, 1960).

Beginning with the Maxwell and Buchanan (2020) data, a strong agreement was detected between the human coded data and response sets scored using Levenshtein distances of 0, 1, and 2, *κ*s ≥ .96, with this agreement weakening when the data was scored using higher Levenshtein distances ( The Maxwell and Huff (in press) dataset showed a similar pattern of agreement between coding methods, with strong agreement for Levenshtein distances less than 3, *κ*s ≤ .79, and weaker agreement when more liberal scoring criteria were used (*κ*s ≤ .85). Table 10 reports individual *κ* statistics for all comparisons within each dataset. Across datasets, reliability between human and *lrd* scored data was highest when a Levenshtein distance of 1 was used, and lowest when scoring used a Levenshtein distance of 5. As such, these results provide further evidence that using *lrd* to score cued-recall responses results in output that is highly consistent with what is produced by human coders.

**Free Recall Scoring Functions Validation**

We now turn to a set of analyses in which we tested the *lrd* package’s ability to accurately score free-recall data. First, we detail the dataset, including all participant and stimuli characteristics. We follow the same general procedure used to validate the cued-recall functions, including the use of sensitivity and specificity analyses to test potential cutoff values and comparing the *lrd* scored output to the original human coded data as a test of whether the original results can replicate. Finally, we conclude the analyses by computing Cohen’s *κ* to assess reliability between the various coding sources.

**Participants and Materials**

All data used in these analyses was originally published in Experiment 4A of Huff et al. (2018), who recruited 120 to complete the study online via Amazon’s Mechanical Turk. Participants were presented with three types of study lists: Categorical lists in which items were strongly related to one another (e.g., birds, fruits, etc.), ad-hoc lists in which items were weakly e.g., things made of wood, things that are liquids, etc.), and unrelated lists in which items shared no semantic relatedness. Each list contained 20 items and all participants studied six lists. List type was manipulated within subjects such that participants studied 2 of each list type. Thus, each participant always studied 2 categorical lists, 2 ad-hoc lists, and 2 unrelated lists. Following presentation of each list, participants completed a free-recall task. As such, this provided us with 720 individual free-recall tests (120 participants X 6 list presentations). Because each list contained 20 items, this resulted in 14,400 potentially correct responses.

**Data Processing and Scoring**

To assess the reliability of the free-recall scoring functions, we used *lrd* to first convert the data from wide to long format and then to score participant responses. First, arrange\_data() was used to convert the data into long format. The output data contained participant responses and unique identifiers for each participant. Next, a scoring key was created for each of the 6 lists. Each list was then scored separately using prop\_correct\_free(). This was an iterative process which used each of the six cutoff values as used in the sensitivity and specificity analyses, allowing us to monitor how changes to the cutoff criteria affected the scored output. The final datasets were created by combining the scored output within each list type at each of the four cutoff values. This resulted in three datasets, each corresponding to one of the three list types (categorical, ad-hoc, or unrelated) used by Huff et al. (2018).

**Determining the Optimal Scoring Criterion**

Before testing whether *lrd* could successfully replicate human coded free-recall data, we again needed to determine the optimal cutoff value for this function that would maximize the number of correct hits (e.g., true positives) while minimizing the number of false positives and false negatives. To do so, we again turn to a series of sensitivity and specificity analyses for each the three datasets. These analyses followed the same design used when validating the cued-recall functions.

Table 11 displays sensitivity and specificity percentages for each dataset computed at each of the selected cutoff values. Each of the three datasets displayed a similar pattern of results. Sensitivity and specificity were maximized when the Levenshtein distance was set at either 2 (ad-hoc and categorical lists) or 3 (unrelated lists). As such, we propose that using a cutoff of 2 at scoring provides the best method to mitigate false positives and negatives. However, prop\_correct\_free() allows this value to be edited as desired, providing users with maximum control over the scoring process.

**Analyses and Results**

We next conducted a series of analyses that tested whether free-recall data scored with *lrd* successfully replicates the results from the original human coded dataset. First, we provide descriptive statistics of recall rates for both the original and rescored datasets. Next, we test whether these recall rates differ as a function of coding. Finally, we conclude this section by computing the inter-rater reliability between the human and *lrd* coded datasets.

**Replication of Free Recall Studies**

First, data from each of the three list types were scored with *lrd* using all 6 Levenshtein distance cutoff values between 0 and 5. Next, three one-way ANOVAs were used to test whether recall rates differed between the 6 scoring types (the 5 *lrd* scoring criteria plus the human coded data) for each of the three study list types. For completeness, means, 95% CI’s and Cohen’s *d* effect size indices for all comparisons are reported in Table 12.

Beginning with the categorical list items, no significant differences were detected between the human coded data or the *lrd* scored data at any of the percent match cutoff values, *F*(6, 833) = 1.22, *MSE* = 220.57, *p* = .29. Additionally, this pattern replicated for the ad-hoc lists *F*(6, 833) < 1, *MSE* = 228.51, *p* = .95, and the unrelated lists, *F*(6, 833) < 1, *MSE* = 241.92, *p* = .99. As such, using *lrd* to score free-recall responses did not result in significant changes in outcome across any of the datasets, regardless of whether a strict or lenient scoring criterion was selected. Thus, the results of these analyses suggest that *lrd* is able to code free-recall data equivalently to human coders.

**Inter-Rater Reliability**

Finally, we computed *κ* values for all data sets at the individual trial level as a test of inter-rater reliability. Starting with the categorical list, a strong agreement was detected between the human coded data and the *lrd* scored data when using each of the six scoring conditions, *κ*s ≥ .89. Next, for the ad-hoc dataset, a moderate pattern of agreement was detected when scoring used cutoffs of 0 and 1 (*κ*s = .76), while a strong agreement was detected when scoring used a cutoff of 2 or greater (*κ*s = .92). Finally, the unrelated list exhibited a pattern similar to the categorical lists, with a moderate agreement observed between the human and *lrd* coded data when scored using cutoffs of 0, 1, and 2 (*κ*s = .80) and stronger agreement when using more lenient cutoffs (*κ*s = .93). Table 13 reports individual *κ* statistics for all comparisons within each dataset. Based on the results of these analyses, we again suggest using a Levenshtein cutoff of 3 when scoring free-recall. Taken together, the results of these analyses provide further evidence free-recall data scored with *lrd* to is consistent to what is generated by human coders.

**Sentence Scoring Functions Validation**

We now detail a set of analyses which were designed to test *lrd*’s ability to accurately score sentence recall. We begin by providing a description of the dataset and note that these analysis closely follow the procedure used to validate both the cued and free-recall functions by testing potential cutoff values for scoring, testing whether the *lrd* scored output can replicate the original human coded data, and assessing the reliability between coding sources.

**Participants and Materials**

Data in the following analyses was originally published as part of Geller et al. (2020) and is available at https://osf.io/ag7nc/. Geller et al. (2020) had 100 participants listen to 20 sentences taken from AzBio (Saphr et al., 2012), a large, open-set database of recorded sentences. After listening to each sentence, participants were instructed to immediately type each sentence from memory. Typed responses were then manually coded by two independent reviewers, leading to two sets of human coded data (each consisting of 2000 responses) with which to test *lrd*’s sentence scoring functions.

**Data Processing and Scoring**

To test the reliability of this package’s sentence scoring capabilities, we began by using *lrd* to process and dataset described above using each of the 6 Levenshtein distance cutoffs. Because Geller et al. (2020) scored their output using two independent coders, treated each coder as a separate dataset. Afterwards, we compared output obtained using *lrd* to each set of manually coded output and tested whether the *lrd* scored data would replicate the original findings.

Before running the scoring algorithm, we generated two .csv files (one for each human coder) containing participant responses, answer key, trial numbers, and unique identifiers for each participant. We then scored each dataset using the prop\_correct\_sentence() function. Consistent with the previous analyses, this scoring process was iterative such that we used each of the six Levenshtein distances. This resulted in each dataset being scored six times, allowing us again to track how changing the cutoff criteria affected scoring accuracy.

**Determining the Optimal Scoring Criterion**

Before scoring the data, we again needed to determine the optimal cutoff value for this function that would maximize the number of correct hits (e.g., true positives) while minimizing the number of false positives and false negatives. To do so, we again turn to a series of sensitivity and specificity analyses, comparing the *lrd* scored data at each Levenshtein distance cutoff to each of the two human coders who originally scored the Geller et al. (2020) dataset. Table 14 displays sensitivity and specificity percentages for each of the six selected values. Overall, sensitivity and specificity were maximized at low Levenshtein distances (≤ 1) were selected, suggesting that these values maximized correct hits while simultaneously limiting false positives and negatives. As such, we propose that a value of 1 be selected when using *lrd* to perform sentence matching as this will provide some correction for minor discrepancies between the key and response (such as spelling errors), but we note that as with the other scoring functions, this value can be modified as needed to provide flexibility in scoring.

**Analyses and Results**

After determining the optimal cutoff value for scoring, we next conducted a series of analyses testing whether sentence data scored with *lrd* successfully replicates the human coded dataset. We begin this section by providing descriptive statistics for recall rates in both the human and *lrd* scored datasets and test whether these datasets significantly differ as a function of coding source. We then conclude our analyses of the sentence recall data by assessing the inter-rater reliability between each dataset.

**Replication of Sentence Recall Studies**

First, data from each of the three list types were scored with *lrd* using all 6 Levenshtein distance cutoff values between 0 and 5. Next, two one-way ANOVAs were conducted, testing whether recall rates differed between the 6 scoring types (the 5 *lrd* scoring criteria plus the human coded data) for each of the two human coders. Table 15 reports means, 95% CI’s, and Cohen’s *d* effect sizes for all comparisons.

Beginning with data scored by the first human coder, a significant difference was detected between the manually and *lrd* scored data, *F*(6, 594) = 204.37, *MSE* = 22.02, *η*2G=.12. However, a series of post-hoc *t*-tests revealed that this effect was largely driven by differences between the human coded data and more and the data scored with *lrd* using more lenient cutoff criteria. Specifically, recall rates significantly differed from the human scored data (31.80) when a cutoff of 3 (40.15), 4 (44.55), or 5 (46.45) were selected (*t*s ≥ 3.58, *d*s ≥ 0.51). However, the *lrd* scored data did not significantly differ from the human coded data when it was scored using cutoffs of 0 (29.10), 1 (32.90), or 2 (34.25; *t*s ≤ 1.12, *p*s ≥ .26). When compared to the second human coder, an effect of coding source was again detected, *F*(6, 594) = 209.77, *MSE* = 21.89, *η*2G= .12. This effect largely followed the same patterns when the *lrd* scored data was compared to the first human coder such that mean recall rates significantly differed from the human scored data (31.30) when *lrd* scoring used cutoffs of 3 or greater (*t*s ≥ 3.75, *d*s ≥ 0.53). However, the *lrd* scored data again did not significantly differ from the human coded data when scored using cutoffs less than 3 (*t*s ≤ 1.33, *p*s ≥ .19).

Given the result of this set of analyses, using *lrd* to score sentence recall did not result in significant changes when scoring used more stringent cutoff values (e.g., using a Levenshtein distance < 3). As such, the results of these analyses suggest that when using the appropriate settings, *lrd* is able score sentence responses with similar accuracy to human coders.

**Inter-Rater Reliability**

Finally, we tested the inter-rater between each human coder and *lrd* by computing *κ* values for at the individual trial level. Table 16 reports individual *κ* statistics for all comparisons within each for each of the human coders. Beginning with sentences scored by the first human coder, a strong agreement was detected between the human and *lrd* scored data when a cutoff value of at least 2 was used, *κ*s ≥ .90, and a moderate agreement was found when sentences were scored using a cutoff of 3 or higher, *κ*s ≥ .69. This pattern extended to the second human coder. Again, a strong agreement between the *lrd* and human coded data emerged when a cutoff of at least 2 was used, *κ*s ≥ .91. A moderate agreement was again detected when sentences were scored using a cutoff value of 3 or higher, *κ*s ≥ .69. Thus, based on this set of results of these analyses, we propose using a Levenshtein cutoff of 1 when using *lrd* to score sentence recall, as this value provided strong agreement between both sets of human coded data while still allowing for some flexibility in participant responses due to minor errors. Given the strong agreement detected by these analyses, sentence data scored with *lrd* to is comparable to output generated by human coders.

**Summary and Conclusion**

Although recall tests are widely used in Psychology, no open access tools currently exist to quickly process the large amounts of lexical text data that these studies generate. The *lrd* package addresses this need by providing researchers with a means of automating multiple types of recall scoring as a means to save time and minimize coding errors, while also being able to control for minor errors in participant responses. By using this package to replicate the results from cued-recall studies, free recall, and sentence recall experiments, we show that *lrd* can accurately reproduce each type of data. We hope that *lrd* will both drastically reduce the amount of time spent coding lexical data and assist the reproducibility measures being adopted by the field by providing researchers with a standardized, open-source method for processing lexical output across psychological studies.

**Open Practices Statement**

The data for all experiments have been made available at https://osf.io/admyx/ and none of the experiments were preregistered.

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Table 1

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Participant | Response | Key |  |  |
| 1 | hom | home |  |  |
| 1 | windsheld | windshield |  |  |
| 1 | pepper | pepper |  |  |
| 2 | homme | home |  |  |
| 2 | windsheild | windshield |  |  |
| 2 | pepper | pepper |  |  |

*Sample Output Obtained using prop.correct.cued()*

*Note.*

Table 2

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Participant | Response |
| 1 | Rosemary, Onion, Salt |
| 2 | Salt, Garlic |
| 3 | Rosemary |

*Sample Free-Recall Data Before Running* arrange\_data()

*Note.* This data is arranged in wide format with each participant’s response in the same row. Responses share the same cell of the dataframe and are separated by a comma.

Table 3

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Participant | Response | Position |
| 1 | Rosemary | 1 |
| 1 | Onion | 2 |
| 1 | Salt | 3 |
| 2 | Salt | 1 |
| 2 | Garlic | 2 |
| 3 | Rosemary | 1 |

*Sample Free-Recall Data After Running* arrange\_data()

*Note.* This data is arranged in long format with each response having a unique row and cell in the dataframe.

Table 4

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Cutoff Criteria | Participant | Response | Key | Scored |
| 0 | 1 | basket | basket | 1 |
|  | 1 | flowrs | NA | 0 |
|  | 2 | flwrs | NA | 0 |
|  | 2 | glasses | NA | 0 |
| 1 | 1 | basket | basket | 1 |
|  | 1 | flowrs | flowers | 1 |
|  | 2 | flwrs | NA | 0 |
|  | 2 | glasses | NA | 0 |
| 2 | 1 | basket | basket | 1 |
|  | 1 | flowrs | flowers | 1 |
|  | 2 | flwrs | flowers | 1 |
|  | 2 | glasses | NA | 0 |

*Sample Output Obtained using prop\_correct\_free()*

*Note.* Columns 2 through 5 illustrate the structure of the output file. Three types of potential responses are included: Correct spellings, misspellings that are scored as correct based on the cutoff, and incorrect responses not in the key (either misspellings or responding with a word not in the key; denoted by the NA in the key column). Responses are scored using Levenshtein distance cutoffs of 0, 1, and 2.

Table 5

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Participant | Response | Key | *lrd* 0 | *lrd* 1 | *lrd* 2 | *lrd* 3 | *lrd* 4 | *lrd* 5 |
| 1 | sleek | sleek | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 2 | slk | sleek | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 3 | stteadily | steadily | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 4 | vibretion | vibration | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 5 | draw | doodle | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 6 | watch | stopwatch | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |

*Example of Different types of Participant Response Errors in the Cued-Recall Example*

*Note.* Participant 1 provided the correct response; Participant 2 omitted two letters; Participant 3 included one extra letter; Participant 4 mistyped one letter; Participant 5 responded with a synonym; Participant 6 responded with a shortened form of the word. *lrd* columns denote Levenshtein distance used at scoring.

Table 6

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Scoring Criteria | % Sensitivity | % Specificity |
| *lrd* 0 | 99 | 94 |
| *lrd* 1 | 99 | 96 |
| *lrd* 2 | 97 | 96 |
| *lrd* 3 | 80 | 97 |
| *lrd* 4 | 47 | 98 |
| *lrd* 5 | 24 | 99 |

*Sensitivity and Specificity Results for Maxwell and Buchanan (2020)*

*Note.* Column labels indicate Levenshtein distance used at scoring. Values denote percentages.

Table 7

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Scoring Criteria | % Sensitivity | % Specificity |
| *lrd* 0 | 99 | 93 |
| *lrd* 1 | 99 | 97 |
| *lrd* 2 | 97 | 98 |
| *lrd* 3 | 87 | 99 |
| *lrd* 4 | 62 | 99 |
| *lrd* 5 | 40 | 99 |

*Sensitivity and Specificity Results for Maxwell and Huff (in press)*

*Note.* Column labels indicate Levenshtein distance used at scoring. Values denote percentages.

Table 8

*Mean Recall Rates as a Function of Human Coded and lrd Scored Data Collapsed Across Item Type in Maxwell and Buchanan (2020).*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Group | *M* | HC | *lrd* 0 | *lrd* 1 | *lrd* 2 | *lrd* 3 | *lrd* 4 |
| Human Coded | 54.14 (3.47) | -- |  |  |  |  |  |
| *lrd* 0 | 50.72 (3.58) | 0.13 | -- |  |  |  |  |
| *lrd* 1 | 52.14 (3.57) | 0.07 | 0.05 | -- |  |  |  |
| *lrd* 2 | 53.37 (3.53) | 0.03 | 0.10 | 0.05 | -- |  |  |
| *lrd* 3 | 61.30 (2.91) | 0.29\* | 0.43\* | 0.37\* | 0.32\* | -- |  |
| *lrd* 4 | 77.42 (1.86) | 1.10\* | 1.24\* | 1.17\* | 1.12\* | 0.87\* | -- |
| *lrd* 5 | 88.48 (1.09) | 1.76\* | 1.88\* | 1.82\* | 1.77\* | 1.63\* | 0.96\* |

*Note.* Mean recall rates for each scoring condition. *95%* *CI*’s are in parentheses. HC = Human coded data. HC and *lrd* columns indicate Cohen’s *d* effect sizes for post-hoc comparisons, \* = *p* < .05.

Table 9

*Mean Recall rates as a Function of Human Coded and lrd Scored Data Collapsed Across Associative Direction Items in Maxwell and Huff (in press).*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Group | *M* | HC | *lrd* 0 | *lrd* 1 | *lrd* 2 | *lrd* 3 | *lrd* 4 |
| Human Coded | 43.96 (6.57) | -- |  |  |  |  |  |
| *lrd* 0 | 41.06 (6.59) | 0.21 | -- |  |  |  |  |
| *lrd* 1 | 43.11 (6.59) | 0.06 | 0.15 | -- |  |  |  |
| *lrd* 2 | 44.86 (6.58) | 0.06 | 0.28\* | 0.13 | -- |  |  |
| *lrd* 3 | 50.83 (6.42) | 0.52\* | 0.75\* | 0.59\* | 0.46\* | -- |  |
| *lrd* 4 | 64.84 (5.51) | 1.79\* | 2.08\* | 1.67\* | 1.74\* | 1.33\* | -- |
| *lrd 5* | 77.69 (4.21) | 3.15\* | 3.49\* | 3.15\* | 3.12\* | 2.81\* | 1.76\* |

*Note.* Mean recall rates for each scoring condition. *95% CI*s are in parentheses. HC = Human coded data. HC and *lrd* columns indicate Cohen’s *d* effect sizes for post-hoc comparisons, \* = *p* < .05.

Table 10

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Experiment | *lrd* 0 | *lrd* 1 | *lrd* 2 | *lrd* 3 | *lrd* 4 | *lrd* 5 |
| MB | .93 | .95 | .94 | .79 | .49 | .24 |
| MH | .94 | .97 | .96 | .85 | .59 | .36 |

*Inter-rater Reliability Statistics (Cohen’s κ) for Maxwell and Buchanan (2020) and Maxwell and Huff (in press)*

*Note.* MB = Maxwell and Buchanan, 2020; MH = Maxwell and Huff (2020). *lrd* columns indicate Levenshtein distance used at scoring*.* All values are Cohen’s *κ* between human scored data and data scored at each *lrd* cutoff.

Table 11

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| List Type | Scoring Criteria | % Sensitivity | % Specificity |
| Ad-hoc | 0 | 90 | 86 |
|  | 1 | 89 | 87 |
|  | 2 | 98 | 95 |
|  | 3 | 95 | 96 |
|  | 4 | 96 | 96 |
|  | 5 | 96 | 96 |
|  |  |  |  |
| Categorical | 0 | 98 | 90 |
|  | 1  2  3  4 | 98  98  97  95 | 91  91  92  94 |
|  | 5 | 95 | 94 |
|  |  |  |  |
| Unrelated | 0 | 93 | 87 |
|  | 1 | 93 | 87 |
|  | 2 | 92 | 87 |
|  | 3 | 97 | 96 |
|  | 4 | 97 | 96 |
|  | 5 | 97 | 96 |

*Sensitivity and Specificity Results for Huff et al. (2018)*

*Note:* Analyses are split by list type. Scoring criteria indicates Levenshtein distance used when running prop\_correct\_free().

Table 12

*Mean Correct Free-Recall as a Function of Human Coded and lrd Scored Data for each list type used in Huff et al. (2018)*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| List Type | Group | *M* | HC | *lrd* 0 | *lrd* 1 | *lrd* 2 | *lrd* 3 | *lrd 4* |
| Ad-hoc | Human Coded | 50.00 (2.78) | -- |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | *lrd* 0 | 48.10 (2.52) | 0.13 | -- |  |  |  |  |
|  | *lrd* 1 | 48.64 (2.51) | 0.09 | 0.04 | -- |  |  |  |
|  | *lrd* 2 | 48.58 (2.73) | 0.09 | 0.03 | 0.01 | -- |  |  |
|  | *lrd* 3 | 49.48 (2.78) | 0.02 | 0.09 | 0.05 | 0.06 | -- |  |
|  | *lrd* 4 | 49.71 (2.80) | 0.01 | 0.11 | 0.07 | 0.07 | 0.01 | -- |
|  | *lrd 5* | 49.71 (2.80) | 0.01 | 0.11 | 0.07 | 0.07 | 0.01 | 0.00 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Categorical | Human Coded | 47.86 (2.50) | -- |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | *lrd* 0 | 44.13 (2.67) | 0.25 | -- |  |  |  |  |
|  | *lrd* 1 | 44.60 (2.65) | 0.23 | 0.03 | -- |  |  |  |
|  | *lrd* 2 | 44.71 (2.64) | 0.22 | 0.04 | 0.01 | -- |  |  |
|  | *lrd* 3 | 45.56 (2.65) | 0.16 | 0.10 | 0.06 | 0.06 | -- |  |
|  | *lrd* 4 | 47.19 (2.74) | 0.05 | 0.20 | 0.19 | 0.16 | 0.11 | -- |
|  | *lrd* 5 | 47.19 (2.74) | 0.05 | 0.20 | 0.19 | 0.16 | 0.11 | 0.00 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Unrelated | Human Coded | 37.99 (2.68) | -- |  |  |  |  |  |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | *lrd* 0 | 37.40 (2.75) | 0.04 | -- |  |  |  |  |
|  | *lrd* 1 | 37.52 (2.75) | 0.03 | 0.01 | -- |  |  |  |
|  | *lrd* 2 | 37.88 (2.74) | 0.01 | 0.03 | 0.02 | -- |  |  |
|  | *lrd* 3 | 38.46 (2.85) | 0.03 | 0.07 | 0.06 | 0.04 | -- |  |
|  | *lrd* 4 | 38.46 (2.85) | 0.03 | 0.07 | 0.06 | 0.04 | 0.00 | -- |
|  | *lrd 5* | 38.46 (2.85) | 0.03 | 0.07 | 0.06 | 0.04 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

*Note.* Mean recall rates for each scoring condition. *95%* *CI*’s are in parentheses. HC = Human coded data. *lrd* columns and row labels indicate each of the tested cutoff criteria. HC and percentage columns indicate Cohen’s *d* effect sizes for post-hoc comparisons, \* = *p* < .05.

Table 13

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| List Type | *lrd* 0 | *lrd* 1 | *lrd* 2 | *lrd* 3 | *lrd* 4 | *lrd* 5 |
| Ad-hoc | .76 | .76 | .93 | .92 | .92 | .92 |
| Categorical | .89 | .90 | .90 | .90 | .89 | .89 |
| Unrelated | .80 | .80 | .80 | .93 | .93 | .93 |

*Inter-rater Reliability Statistics (Cohen’s κ) for Huff et al. (2018).*

*Note.* List Type corresponds to the three study lists conditions used in Huff et al. (2018). *lrd* columns indicate each of the tested cutoff criteria All values are Cohen’s *κ* between human scored data and data scored at each *lrd* cutoff.

Table 14

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Scoring Criteria | Coder 1 | | Coder 2 | |
|  | % Sensitivity | % Specificity | % Sensitivity | % Specificity |
| *lrd* 0 | 99 | 91 | 99 | 93 |
| *lrd* 1 | 97 | 96 | 97 | 98 |
| *lrd* 2 | 95 | 97 | 95 | 98 |
| *lrd* 3 | 87 | 99 | 87 | 99 |
| *lrd* 4 | 81 | 99 | 80 | 99 |
| *lrd* 5 | 78 | 99 | 78 | 99 |

*Sensitivity and Specificity Results for Geller et al. (2020)*

*Note.* Column labels indicate Levenshtein distance used at scoring. Values denote percentages. For completeness, we compare *lrd* sensitivity and specificity to both human coders from Geller et al. (2020).

Table 15

*Mean Correct Sentence Recall as a Function of Human Coded and lrd Scored Data for each coder in Geller et al. (2020)*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Group | *M* | HC 1 | HC 2 | *lrd* 0 | *lrd* 1 | *lrd* 2 | *lrd* 3 | *lrd 4* |
| Human Coded 1 | 31.80 (2.88) | -- |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Human Coded 2 | 31.30 (2.97) | 0.03 | -- |  |  |  |  |  |
| *lrd* 0 | 29.10 (2.81) | 0.18 | 0.15 | -- |  |  |  |  |
| *lrd* 1 | 32.90 (3.10) | 0.07 | 0.10 | 0.25 | -- |  |  |  |
| *lrd* 2 | 34.25 (3.18) | 0.16 | 0.19 | 0.34\* | 0.08 | -- |  |  |
| *lrd* 3 | 40.15 (3.55) | 0.51\* | 0.53\* | 0.66\* | 0.43\* | 0.34\* | -- |  |
| *lrd* 4 | 44.45 (3.79) | 0.74\* | 0.76\* | 0.91\* | 0.66\* | 0.58\* | 0.23 | -- |
| *lrd 5* | 46.45 (3.90) | 0.84\* | 0.86\* | 1.00\* | 0.75\* | 0.67\* | 0.33\* | 0.10 |

*Note.* Mean recall rates for each scoring condition. *95%* *CI*’s are in parentheses. HC = Human coded data. *lrd* columns and row labels indicate each of the tested cutoff criteria. HC and percentage columns indicate Cohen’s *d* effect sizes for post-hoc comparisons, \* = *p* < .05.

Table 16

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Coder | *lrd* 0 | *lrd* 1 | *lrd* 2 | *lrd* 3 | *lrd* 4 | *lrd* 5 |
| One | .93 | .92 | .90 | .81 | .72 | .69 |
| Two | .94 | .94 | .91 | .80 | .72 | .69 |

*Inter-rater Reliability Statistics (Cohen’s κ) for each human coder used in Geller et al. (2020)*

*Note.* *lrd* columns indicate Levenshtein distance used at scoring*.* All values are Cohen’s *κ* between human scored data and data scored at each *lrd* cutoff.



*Figure 1.* Illustration of the *lrd Shiny* application’s Instructions tab prior to uploading a dataset.



*Figure 2.* Illustration of the *lrd Shiny* application’s Scored Output tab after uploading a dataset. Data in this is example is scored using a 75% cutoff criteria.



*Figure 3*. Illustration of the lrd Shiny application’s Proportion Correct tab. Data is grouped by participant identifier.



*Figure 4*. Illustration of the lrd Shiny application’s Plots tab. Data in this example is grouped by an optional condition column attached to the upload .csv file.

1. When copying code, please note that the arguments in quotes change color (usually green), as not all quote symbols are recognized by *R*. Simply delete them and retype the quotes if they do not copy correctly. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)